JPRS-UEA-87-033
7 OCTOBER 1987

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

JPRS Report

Soviet Union

Economic Affairs

JPRS-UEA-87-033

7 OCTOBER 1987

SOVIET UNION
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

CONTENTS

/9987

MURAKHOVSKIY ELABORATES ON FOOD PROGRAM TASKS

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Jul 87 p 2

[Report of interview with V.S. Murakhovskiy, chairman of USSR Gosagroprom: "Taking the Interests of the Workers Into Account"; date and place not given; first two paragraphs are SELSKAYA ZHIZN introduction]

[Text] In a session held 23 July the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee discussed the question of urgent measures to meet the requirements of the June Plenum concerning fuller performance of the tasks of the Food Program.

V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of USSR Gosagroprom, spoke about these measures at the request of a TASS correspondent.

The urgent measures pertain above all to further increasing the motivation and developing the initiative of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and individuals in increasing the production and sales of farm products, he emphasized.

The party's Central Committee is doing everything to authentically awaken people's initiative, to make full use of the rich potential that has been built up in the years of Soviet power.

The task has been set of invigorating the work of the food branches of industry, other enterprises in the agroindustrial complex, organizations in the consumer cooperative system, and subsidiary farms of agricultural enterprises and of removing the constraints that have been holding back the growth of food resources.

As kolkhozes and sovkhozes are granted greater independence and make the transition to full cost accounting (khozraschet) and self-financing, a special role is being given to development of independent local soviet and agricultural bodies and to effective financial and nonfinancial incentives to motivate work collectives and all rural inhabitants. All the conditions have been brought about for this. Farms may at their own discretion choose progressive forms of the organization of work and of remuneration and intensive technologies in plant growing and animal husbandry. It is important to make full use of all the potential which the agroindustrial complex possesses.

Take, for example, such a reserve as fattening young livestock belonging to socialized farms in private barnyards. Some people have thought and continue to think that this is all but a return to the old ways, that this could result in a collapse of kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

What is actually happening? Wherever bold initiative has been taken in concluding contracts with families and where every opportunity has been offered for people to reveal their initiative, remarkable results are being achieved. Because people are not just formally, but actively involved in the production process. The interests of society and personal interests are nicely combined in this case.

There is a need to go forward more boldly, to introduce widely not only the brigade contract, but also the family contract, whereby land and other means of production are assigned on a binding basis and for a long period of time to industrious people with initiative. In such collectives remuneration of labor is made directly dependent upon gross income. A certain part of it may be furnished in kind--grain, fruit and vegetables, animal feed, young livestock and poultry.

As a matter of fact, kolkhozes and sovkhozes are making little use of payment in kind at present, although there are no obstacles to this.

Payment in kind solves may problems under present conditions. It gives the individual an opportunity to develop his own private farming operation and to have dairy cows, swine, sheep, and poultry in his barnyard.

The limits set several decades ago on livestock allowed to be kept in the private barnyard and the maximum size of homestead plots are to be reassessed. All of this will be a concern of local soviets of people's deputies. They and no one else are in a position to know how many head and what kind of livestock a family should fatten for slaughter or keep in its farmyard.

Measures have been envisaged whose purpose is that kolkhozes and sovkhozes will provide every kind of assistance to farmworkers in doing their private farming. This includes setting aside young livestock and poultry for them, assigning them pasturage, helping them to erect and repair buildings, and furnishing them transportation. In short, provision is being made so that the farmworker participates in producing farm products according to the measure of his energies and abilities. Moreover, both to meet his own needs and also for sale to the state or to individuals.

So that there will be less trouble in selling, Tsentrosoyuz has been ordered to open selpos with procurement stations in literally every settlement to which every inhabitant can sell surpluses of farm products produced in his farmyard for appropriate payment.

Everything needs to be done so that the initiative of the working people is supported both by farm managers and also by the community. City garden and orchard cooperatives and partnerships are a good thing. But local authorities have been using every possible pretext to prevent land from being allocated to

plots, even though every opportunity exists for full satisfaction of the requests of individuals for allocation of plots for orchards and gardens in the very near future.

And why, one wonders, is it not possible to create rural cooperatives, say, of beekeepers and those who raise rabbits? This measure has also been provided for. To supplement it, plans call for substantially increasing the output of small power tools and implements and their sale to the public. Many of them can be purchased on credit.

There are important opportunities for increasing production in the socialized sector. The initiative of kolkhozes and sovkhozes is not being fully taken advantage of as yet. On certain farms production is being carried on extensively, as in the past, and dependent attitudes are still strong.

Take any oblast, kray, or republic. They have lagging farms. If their production performance were brought up to the average level, then the country would receive 40 billion rubles worth of agricultural products. In other words, it could be expressed this way: the produce on our table could be increased by 25 percent. That is a huge addition. Fuller advantage must be taken of that potential.

The product mix is to be analyzed in detail within a very short time on every such kolkhoz and sovkhoz. After all, conditions have changed: on many of them they now have a smaller labor force, and they have been forced to turn to the city for help. But this has effects which offer no benefit. Produce is lost and becomes more expensive, and for all practice purposes the farm is marking time.

Such kolkhozes and sovkhozes literally have to be jerked into producing more output. On what basis? It is deemed advisable to strengthen them with resourceful personnel who are well-trained, to make extensive use of open competitions to fill the positions of managers and specialists, and at the same time we need to send there not individuals, but teams.

Much has also been envisaged for improving the supply of materials and equipment to those kolkhozes and sovkhozes and for housing and road construction on them.

Nor should we forget the potential that is already being utilized in certain regions. We are referring to organizing direct assistance, when the economically strong farms perform certain operations on the weak ones. Moreover, they do this on a long-term contract basis and to mutual advantage.

The practice has been justifying itself of organizing subsidiary farms using the facilities of these kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Certain industrial enterprises are investing funds in their development and obtaining a share of the additional produce to improve their own food service.

In conclusion a few words about strengthening the role of nonfinancial incentives. After all, being paid for one's work is not the only important thing. One also wants to know how that work is appreciated and to receive recognition of the entire people for his contribution to the common cause.

I will speak quite definitely: Inclusion of all man's interests in the overall economic mechanism will make it possible for him to feel himself to be a boss, will motivate him to participate actively in all the processes of our life, and to fulfill the Food Program more effectively.

7045
CSO: 1824/342

PASKAR HITS SHORTCOMINGS IN APK RESOURCE USE

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russian No 7, Jul 87 pp 9-19

[Article by P. Paskar, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan: "Steadily Increase Efficiency in Utilizing the Potential of the Agroindustrial Complex"]

[Text] The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress worked out the fundamental problems of communist construction in depth and clearly defined the basic directions for accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and for intensifying and increasing the efficiency of production in every possible way based on widespread introduction of the achievements of scientific and technological progress. Workers of the agroindustrial complex (APK) were set the task of achieving steady production growth in the shortest possible periods of time and fully and reliably providing the country with foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials, while simultaneously reducing their importation.

Qualitative changes were made in the development of the agroindustrial complex after the May (1982) Plenum of the party's central committee, which adopted the Food Program of the USSR for the period up to 1990. The material and technical base was significantly reinforced, new APK administrative organs were created, and the economic mechanism of management continues to be improved. All this had a positive effect on increasing food production and improving the people's nutrition.

The agroindustrial complex is a major component of the national economy of the USSR. Its sectors employ 43 million persons which produce over 35 percentof the national income. The output of the APK provides approximately 75 percent of the country's retail commodity turnover. About one-third of the gross national product and production fixed capital falls to the share of sectors which are part of the APK and sectors which provide it with the means of production.

A key role in the country's national economic agroindustrial complex belongs to the USSR Gosagroprom [State Agroindustrial Committee]. Its system is made up of 15 union republic agroproms (agroindustrial associations), 157 autonomous republic, kray and oblast agroproms, 3,104 rayon (okrug) agroproms, 26,300 kolkhozes, 25,400 sovkhozes and other state agricultural enterprises, 7,300 interfarm [mezhkhozyaystvennyye] enterprises (except construction

enterprises), 6,300 processing enterprises, 10,400 construction enterprises (including interfarm enterprises), 9,700 supply organizations, and 1,900 trade and procurement organizations.

The agroindustrial complex has considerable scientific potential and extensive educational resources at its disposal, consisting of 915 scientific research institutions, 1,440 planning, design, and other organizations, and 119 higher educational institutions. They employ 110,200 scientists and scientist-teachers, including 2,900 doctors and 43,800 candidates of sciences. The annual expenditures for research work in the APK as a whole have reached 696 million rubles, or 9.1 percent of the country's overall expenditures for science.

As a result of the development of the APK, in the 4 years since the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee per capita meat consumption has increased by 4.8 kilograms, reaching a level of 62.5 kilograms; milk and dairy products consumption has increased by 32 kilograms and the level has been brought up to 332 kilograms.

In 1986, gross agricultural production volume increased by 10.6 billion rubles, or by 5.1 percent, compared with 1985, and the gross volume of grain harvested was 210,100 million tons. The state plan for purchases of potatoes, vegetables, tea, cattle and poultry, milk, eggs, and wool, as well as the plan for commodity production in food industry sectors, was fulfilled. The production volumes of many of the most important types of foodstuff, meat and dairy, and fish products, as well as high-quality products, were increased.

The economic indicators of work have been improved. Labor productivity increased by 6.9 percent in agriculture and 5 percent in the foodstuff sectors of industry, and wages were increased by 3.6 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively. Agricultural production had a profitability of 19 percent and a profit of 24.5 billion rubles.

However, the indicators achieved do not provide a basis for complacency. It should not be forgotten that these results are only the beginnings of the vast amount of work to speed up the pace of development of APK sectors and to overcome the negative trends that have accumulated in this sector of the economy, as well as in the overall national economy, in past years.

M. S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, noted at the conference on problems of accelerating scientific and technical progress held in the party's central committee on 11 June 1985 that "a vast potential has been developed in the agroindustrial sector of the economy. We have achieved the most favorable rates for building up capital investments here. But the return from them is inadequate at present. One of the reasons is the poor concentration of resources in decisive areas and disproportion in the development of sectors. We are keeping many head of cattle, but their productivity is low because of a poor fodder base. Agriculture is being provided with quite a large amount of equipment, but kolkhozes and sovkhozes

do not have the appropriate facilities for repair and maintenance. Although the actual conditions already exist now for broad introduction of intensive technolcgies for crop cultivation, they are being utilized very slowly because of the dispersal of resources and equipment.

"The efficiency of investments in developing the area of procurements, storage, transportation and processing of agricultural output has been mentioned time and again. However, appreciable changes for the better are not apparent yet, and nearly one-fifth of what is harvested is being lost." (Footnote) (M. S. Gorbachev, "The Fundamental Question of the Party's Economic Policy. Report at the Meeting in the CPSU Central Committee on Problems of Accelerating Scientific and Technical Progress on 11 June 1985," Moscow, Politizdat, 1985, p 13.)

Two years have passed. Events of historic significance have taken place in this brief period: the 27th CPSU Congress, which may rightfully be called a truly innovative phenomenon in our life, was held. Guided by practical implementation of its specific decisions, the Central Committee's January (1987) Plenum was held, examining the fundamental question of the present--restructuring and the party's personnel policy. The plenum thoroughly analyzed the status of the economy, subjected shortcomings in restructuring work to sharp criticism, and called upon party and economic personnel to approach an assessment of what has been achieved in the work from positions of realism and objectivity.

Analysis of the changes taking place in the agroindustrial complex shows that a certain improvement in the state of affairs should not overshadow the fact that monetary and material and technical resources are still being inefficiently utilized in all its areas, high losses in work time are being permitted, and efficiency in joint efforts by the producers of agricultural output, processers and trade workers to provide the consumer with high-quality products and in the variety needed is still being improved slowly.

The production plan for grain, potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, sunflowers, and raw cotton was not fulfilled in 1986. The plan for state purchases of grain was underfulfilled by 7 million tons and the plans for purchases of sugar beets and sunflowers were underfulfilled by 12.3 million tons and 700,000 tons, respectively. This had an adverse effect on the work of enterprises in the processing sectors, especially the sugar and the oil and fats industry, and on meeting the people's demands for food products. Fundamental improvement to increase the efficiency of the resource potential did not take place. Utilization of land, especially reclaimed land, is being straightened out slowly, and the efficiency of many large livestock-breeding complexes is low. Although there are less lagging kolkhozes and sovkhozes, more than 6,000 farms ended 1986 with financial losses all the same.

The problem of utilizing the machines and equipment which make up 32 percent of the APK's fixed industrial production capital requires urgent solution. On the one hand, the fixed capital at enterprises in the complex is aging appreciably (about 16 percent of the equipment being used has completed its depreciation period), and on the other hand, tractors and certain types of operating machinery are being written off ahead of schedule.

Scientific support for the APK has been allowed to lag seriously. The lack of a close relationship between science and production and the mutual interest of scientific and production collectives in obtaining the maximum national economic impact has made itself felt as never before. Development of the material and technical base of scientific institutions, especially their provision with modern instruments and equipment, is lagging. There are serious shortcomings in the planning and financing of scientific research, planning and design operations, and in the salaries of scientists, designers and technologists; decreased prestige and work efficiency in agrarian science and lagging behind the world level in its most important directions are the result.

Such a situation obligates all employees of the agroindustrial complex to realize that restructuring is important not as slogans, not as declarations, but as practical results. Implementation of the CPSU Central Committee directives for restructuring and accelerating development of the country's agroindustrial complex and increasing the efficiency of the potential developed and being developed depends to a crucial extent on all components--rayon, oblast, republic, and national--and on how completely and skillfully the party's agrarian policy is put into effect, taking specific local conditions into account, by the rayon agroindustrial associations and the agroindustrial committees of union and autonomous republics, krays and oblasts.

Our country is diverse in its natural and climatic conditions, its division of labor and its way of life. All this unquestionably leaves a definite mark and introduces certain specific features in the development of productive forces and production relationships, in the national division of labor, and in the economic and social development of one region or another. But the main criterion which is hard and fast for everyone is the overall state and national interest. The state planning system, the activity of which is now being restructured from top to bottom to bring it into conformity with the new requirements stemming from the shift to economic methods of management, has also been called upon to strictly adhere to it.

In the country's agroindustrial complex as a whole, a situation has now taken shape in which the level of labor productivity remains low and does not correspond to the level of material and technical equipment of production and the power-worker ratio. The outlays per unit of output are high, its production cost is high, and its quality remains low. And all this taken together attests to the fact that in many krays, oblasts and republics, with the new management structure and the more improved economic mechanism of management, they still have not been able to bring about the proper reduction of unproductive expenditures, primarily in kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and the utilization of land, machinery, fertilizers, and technical equipment is being put in order too slowly.

Today as never before, one of the key directions in the work of planning and economic organs should be to take full advantage of the qualitative factors of growth first of all, for the dynamism and stability of the APK's development depends on this in the final analysis. In other words, the greater the increase in material and technical equipment of APK sectors, the more

important the quality of living labor becomes. At the same time, this involves reduction of its expenditures not only at individual leading farms and at the better entrprises, but for sectors as a whole as well. It must be said that there are substantial gaps here at present. On the majority of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, efficiency in making use of potential is still low, and work to inculcate personnel with the responsibility for increasing the yield from every ruble invested, every kilogram of fertilizer and grain fodder, and every liter of water used to water or irrigate the land is not at the proper level.

Let us take one of the largest regions in the country, Central Asia, as an example. The Central Asian republics have a special role in providing the country with cotton, wool, fruits, vegetables, grapes, and other valuable products. Based on such specialization in agricultural production, as well as on the availability of favorable natural conditions and the abundance of manpower resources, the state is investing vast material and financial resources in developing the APK of the Central Asian republics. In the 11th Five-Year Plan alone, capital investments on the order of 20 billion rubles were spent for this purpose, which constitutes nearly 10 percent of the national indicators. Tractors, motor vehicles, agricultural equipment, mineral fertilizers and other resources have been and are being provided to farms of the Central Asian republics. The material and technical base of the sectors of this region's APK is being reinforced substantially in the current five-year plan as well. But all this is still not yielding the proper return. Moreover, efficiency in making use of the production potential that has been developed is decreasing. Thus, the output yield on kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Uzbek SSR, calculating on 100 rubles of resource potential and taking the economic evaluation of the land, fixed and working capital, and manpower resources into account, declined from an average of 24 rubles for 1981-1985 to 21 rubles, or by 12 percent, in 1986. The yield from resources in agriculture declined by 7 percent in the Turkmen SSR and 2 percent in the Tajik SSR during the same period. Cases such as this could be cited for other regions of the country as well. They remind us again and again why the problems of increasing efficiency in making use of the production potential that has been and is being developed in sectors of the agroindustrial complex have been pushed to the forefront under the conditions of restructuring.

The efforts of planning and economic organs and all APK workers also should be aimed precisely at this so that a drastic change is made in all its sectors and they are shifted to an intensive path of development in the current five-year plan. Successful implementation of planned targets for 1987 and the drafting of an economically sound, balanced plan for development of the agroindustrial complex in 1988 is important in this regard.

It should reflect such matters as the democratization of planning, the introduction of economic methods of management, and the extension of republics' independence and their increased responsibility in resolving the problems of self-sufficiency in food. At the same time, preparation of the

draft plan is already being carried out from below--on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and at other enterprises of the APK--with the broad participation of all labor collectives, as stipulated by the Law of the USSR on the State Enterprise (Association).

On one hand, the increasing range and complexity of interrelationships in the national economy necessitate reinforcement of the centralized principle in resolving the most important tasks in the country's economic and social development; on the other hand, they require that more and more independence be made available to enterprises in resolving economic problems. A number of measures have been aimed at this. Thus, with the shift of the planning of agricultural product purchases to oblasts, krays, and autonomous and union republics (without an oblast division), the volume of centralized purchases has been reduced substantially: from 55 to 23 percent of all output produced.

However, their responsibility for fulfillment is increased at the same time: deliveries of products for national stocks and purchases of grain, sugar beets, and oil-bearing and other crops, especially meat and milk.

One of the important tasks for 1988 is to achieve the gains outlined by the five-year plan. In 1987 and 1988, we have to eliminate the lag for certain types of products and look to the five-year plan target for a total of 3 years.

Based on the policy of extending the independence of local organizations, it is planned to reduce the number of indicators approved for APK sectors in the state plan for 1988. Planned targets will be made only for the most important types of products, operations and services, for profit, and for currency earnings. The variety of products is being restricted in the plan. For example, the listing of grain indicators in purchases has been reduced from 10 to 5, and the listing of oil-bearing crop indicators has been reduced from 6 to 1.

The procedure for forming the plan's capital construction section also has been changed. Targets for putting production capacities and nonproduction projects into operation through state centralized capital investments will be formed on the basis of suggestions from below--the plans of sovkhozes and other state enterprises and organizations of the agroindustrial complex. The problem of the production of grain, oil-bearing crops, sugar beets and fodders should be worked out thoroughly in the draft plan for 1988.

Production of grain is the most important strategic task statewide. Calculations for the five-year plan call for bringing gross harvests of grain up to 237.6 million tons for 1988. This is the minimum level required to provide the country with foodstuffs, fodders, and seeds. Union republic gosplans, together with the state agroindustrial committees, have to carefully review the grain production volumes stipulated for 1988 and ensure that the level called for by the five-year plan is reached without fail. At the same time, it is important to bring about an increase in the return from intensive technologies. It is assumed that the area under grain crops cultivated in accordance with these technologies should be expanded to 38.8 million hectares, instead of the 27.2 million hectares in 1986.

In working out the draft plan for 1988 at the public farms, enterprises and organizations of the State Agroindustrial Committee and union republics, it should be taken into account that the targets of the country's Food Program for vegetable oil production are not being fulfilled, and imports of it have increased considerably because of this. This is the result of the unfavorable situation in oil-bearing crop cultivation and the use of oil-bearing raw material. Over the past 3 years of the five-year plan, the areas under oil-bearing crops in the country as a whole was reduced by nearly 800,000 hectares; their gross production was reduced by 1.4 million tons and purchases were reduced by 1 million tons. The situation has been especially unfavorable in this respect in the RSFSR, the Kazakh SSR and the Ukrainian SSR. Planning for purchases of 5.884 million tons of oil-bearing crops is being stipulated for 1988. If it is taken into account that 5.994 million tons were obtained in 1973 alone and that the crops' volume in all subsequent years was basically lower, it becomes clear that important work must be carried out to provide for the purchases of oil-bearing crops being stipulated.

Organizational and economic measures to increase the production of oil-bearing seeds and provide for vegetable oil output in the volumes established by the Food Program of the USSR were stipulated in the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "On urgent steps to increase production of the seeds of oil-bearing crops and vegetable oil." The measures called for in the decree cited should be reflected in the draft plan for 1988 in each union and autonomous republic, kray, oblast, and rayon, and at each farm where oil-bearing crops are cultivated. There are shortcomings in the use of oil-bearing raw material in the oil and fats industry. Oil-extracting enterprises underproduced by more than 43,000 tons in the 11th Five Year Plan and in 1986 because of above-norm losses of oil with oil-seed meal and seed covers.

Sugar production problems have not been resolved. Compared with the 10th Five-Year Plan, it decreased by 2 percent in the country as a whole in the 11th Five-Year Plan. It decreased by 1.5 percent in the Ukrainian SSR, 12 percent in the Kazakh SSR, and 13 percent in the Moldavian SSR.

In order to correct the situation which has taken shape, it is necessary to bring sugar beet production up to 91 million tons next year, or to increase it by 15 percent over 1986. The task is not an easy one, considering the fact that many organizational, economic and technological problems have accumulated. We are alerted by a decrease in the areas sown to sugar beets. The Ukrainian SSR--one of the leading beet-growing republics--reduced the area under this crop by 128,000 hectares in 1986, compared with the 10th Five-Year Plan, and by 39,000 hectares against the 11th Five-Year Plan. This would be an encouraging trend if this had been accompanied by a significant increase in the yield of the sugar beet harvest. However, the sugar beet yield in the republic decreased from 297 quintals per hectare to 265 quintals per hectare in 1985 compared with the 10th Five-Year Plan. Areas sown to sugar beets are being reduced in the RSFSR, the Moldavian SSR, and certain other republics.

Tea consumption has increased sharply in our country in recent years. In order to increase its output in the coming years we will have to reconstruct and expand tea plantations on large areas and accelerate the development of capacities for producing tea in one-time tea bags and tea beveragesandtheir valuable substitutes, using nontraditional vegetable raw material—herbs, chicory, cereal crops, and so forth.

Further structural changes are due in sectors of the APK. Under the conditions of reduced wine and vodka product production, intensified reconfiguration of enterprises to turn out other products is required. This work is being performed extremely slowly in a number of republics.

Considerable reserves for increasing the production of valuable food products exist with efficient use of raw material by enterprises of the meat and dairy industry. In 1986-1987, the production by meat industry enterprises in many republics of a number of highly efficient meat products which enable raw material to be utilized more efficiently was planned for lower volumes or at the 1985 level (sausage products using food serum and blood, certain types of meat convenience foods, culinary and delicatessen items out of meat, and so forth). There were similar situations at enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry as well. Such a planning practice does not contribute to utilization of reserves for increasing production.

Industrial production of poultry meat has reached 1.8 million tons, or 17.4 percent of overall meat production. However, the proportion of first-grade meat is low. Thus, in 1986 it amounted to only 3 percent in the Estonian SSR and 15.9 percent in the Latvian SSR, with an average sectorial level of 37 percent. By increasing the grading quality of poultry meat in these and other republics, the public's supply of high-quality products would be improved first of all, and in the second place, the earnings from sale of the products would be increased by roughly 700 million rubles.

Proper steps are not being taken in the meat industry to reduce losses of meat and meat products in their processing. According to data from the TsSU SSSR [USSR Central Statistical Administration], the annual losses of meat in its production, storage, and transportation and in trade amount to about 200,000 tons. Advanced methods of refrigerated processing of meat and meat products is being introduced slowly in the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, the Moldavian SSR, and certain other republics.

Skimmed milk, 46 percent of which is being fed to cattle in unprocessed form, is being used inefficiently. At the same time, specialized plants for producing reconstituted milk, which were built with complete installations of imported equipment, are not being provided with the raw material.

The new technological processes which exist and are being introduced for processing whey, skimmed milk and other by-products to obtain food products and different semifinished products utilizing membrane technology are being improved slowly. There are more than 20 ultrafiltration installations at dairy industry enterprises, but their use has been poorly organized.

It is necessary to devote the most serious attention to improving the quality of food products. The highest percentage of defective goods occur in processing confectionery at enterprises in the Azerbaijan SSR, the Turkmen SSR, the Uzbek SSR, and the Kazakh SSR; in sugar processing the highest percentage of defective output occurs in the RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR, and the highest percentage for meat and meat products occurs in the RSFSR.

An extremely important problem which requires thorough study in the process of drawing up the plan for 1988 is the preservation of products. Today this is one of the worst bottlenecks in the agroindustrial complex. Each year fruit and vegetable output valued at 1.5 to 2 billion rubles is lost in the country as a whole. Serious attention has to be devoted to expanding the variety of canned fruits and vegetables, primarily canned foods for children. Solution of important problems such as the development of fast-frozen fruit and vegetable products and potato products needs to be speeded up. Only 25 percent of the plan for production of fast-frozen products was fulfilled in 1986.

Further development of the agroindustrial complex is closely linked with capital construction. However, there are serious shortcomings in this most important area as well. Last year's plan for putting capital investments into use and introducing fixed capital was not fulfilled by the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry and Ministry of Grain Products, the Kirghiz SSR, Georgian SSR, Turkmen SSR, Armenian SSR, Tajik SSR and Moldavian SSR. USSR Gosagroprom enterprises and organizations of union subordination fulfilled the plan for utilizing capital investments by 89 percent and the plan for introducing fixed capital by 75 percent.

Implementation of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "On accelerating development of the material and technical base of processing sectors in the agroindustrial complex in the 1986-1990 period" is causing concern. None of the processing sectors of the APK have fulfilled the targets for capital construction. Moreover, enterprises and organizations of the food industry of the USSR Gosagroprom, the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry and the USSR Ministry of Grain Products have assimilated less capital investments than in 1985.

Plans for putting production capacities into operation have not been fulfilled: granulated sugar (82 percent), vegetable oil (53 percent), confectionery (83 percent), canned fruits and vegetables (91 percent), meat and whole milk products (93 percent), and powdered skimmed milk, the whole milk substitute and powdered whey (81 percent). The basic reasons for nonfulfillment of the plan for putting projects into operation are unsatisfactory organization of work at projects under construction and less attention devoted to increasing production capacities because of the re-equipment of operating enterprises. Such a situation naturally requires that the plan indicators for commissioning and increasing production capacities to process agricultural output in the coming year be determined by taking the lag that was permitted into account.

Reducing production expenditures and increasing labor productivity, increasing the efficiency of fixed capital, improving the use of material resources, and accelerating the pace of economic and social development are serious problems for agricultural and processing enterprises.

The agroindustrial complex is being planned and managed as a single entity at present. This makes it possible to reinforce the integration of agriculture and the sectors associated with it and to subordinate them to the common ultimate objective--reliably providing the country with food and agricultural raw material. The unified plan for development of the APK is not the sum of sectorial plans, but the close coordination of indicators for development of the sectors at all levels of management to ensure the best balance and proportionality of the agroindustrial complex and the achievement of high end results in its activity. A comprehensive approach to planning the APK assumes that the development of sectors which are part of it is studied thoroughly.

In preparing the draft plan for 1988, it is necessary to provide for solution of complex intersectorial problems first of all. More and more frequently we come across a situation in many oblasts, krays and republics where production volumes and procurements in one subcomplex or another, especially in the sugar, oils and fats, and meat industry, have not been coupled and coordinated with the available production capacities of processing enterprises.

Under current conditions, the state plan should be aimed at shaping the most important national economic proportions, realizing the main scientific and technical achievements, and providing for balance in the national economy, and should promote the use of new approaches to resolve economic and social problems, broad application of cost accounting, self-support and self-financing, and the introduction of collective and family contracting and other forms of organization and wages. About 20 percent of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes are shifting to self-financing this year. These are farms with profitability at the level of 35 to 40 percent, as a rule, which are engaged in expanded reproduction and provide economic incentive with their own resources.

It is apparent that in the course of preparing the draft plan for 1988, as well as when the operating conditions of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other enterprises under full cost accounting and self-financing are worked out, it is necessary to provide for measures of material and economic support to those republics, krays and oblasts which are actually introducing progressive solutions in organizing the economic and financial activity of enterprises. It is also necessary to do everything locally to eliminate production unprofitability, losses of working capital, unproductive losses and expenditures, excessive use of credit [zakreditovannost], and a parasitical approach to the financing of production.

The process of intensifying the agroindustrial integration of production and the procurement, processing and sale of agricultural products on the basis of cost accounting and self-support is actively under way in the country. The "Kuban" Agroindustrial Combine in Krasnodar Kray was established as an experiment in 1984, and later, the "Ramenskiy," "Kashirskiy," and "Moskva" combines were established in Moscow Oblast. More than 20 agroindustrial

combines are now in operation. The first work results of these new entities attest to their effectiveness. A limited number of directive planning indicators is being established for the combines' successful activity, their rights are being extended in matters of product use, price setting, planning of economic activity, and production management, in resolving social problems, and for closer cooperation with CEMA member countries. A Model Statute on the Agroindustrial Combine, as well as the procedure for taking the sale of products into account in fulfilling the plan for deliveries to national and republic stocks, have now been approved.

At the same time, the problems of improving material and technical support for agroindustrial combines, supplying them with organizational equipment and computer hardware, developing a list of products planned for sale on the foreign market, improving wages in commerce and storing products require further study.

Solution of these and certain other problems will enable agroindustrial combines to increase production of agricultural output, improve its quality and broaden the variety, reduce state budget allocations and subsidies, introduce advanced forms and methods of work, and increase labor collectives' responsibility for the end results.

It is well known that the planning of purchases of fruits, vegetables, potatoes, milk, cattle and poultry, eggs and certain other types of output has been transferred locally in order to seek out reserves for increasing production more thoroughly and to increase purchases of products on this basis to more completely meet the public's demands. Analysis of republics' consolidated five-year plans indicates that this has not taken place yet. A number of union republics are not providing for an increase, but a reduction of the volumes of purchases of many products, compared with calculations for the five-year plan. Meanwhile, the problem today stands as follows: look for reserves not only to fulfill the targets stipulated, but to overfulfill the purchases of livestock and agricultural products for 1988, as well as for subsequent years of the five-year plan, above the volumes established in the five-year plan or estimates for it in accordance with the increase in product deliveries for national stocks.

This is particularly important with respect to the reduced importation of a number of products. But in order for a specific part of above-plan output to go into national stocks, it is necessary to make use of economic levers more extensively. It is evidently expedient to reason out economic incentive measures for those kolkhozes and sovkhozes which accept annual plans which exceed the targets of the five-year plan for the appropriate year.

Both in the plan for 1988 and in the future, we have to provide for an increase in the level of public demand that is met in the republics through their own production of fruit and vegetables, potatoes, and whole milk. Kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural enterprises have been granted the right to sell up to 30 percent of the planned volume of purchases of potatoes, vegetables, melon crops, fruits and berries, and table grapes, as well as all above-plan agricultural output, to consumer cooperatives and in the kolkhoz market, taking into account fulfillment of the plan at prices in accordance

with an agreement. According to data in 1986, very little output in the total 30 percent was sold by farms: potatoes, just 0.5 percent; vegetables, 2.7 percent; melon crops, 10.3 percent; fruits and berries, 4.5 percent; and grapes, 0.6 percent.

In 1986 all production associations and enterprises in the food and meat and dairy industry (excluding the part of associations and enterprises devoted to the wine-making industry) were shifted to the new management conditions. The volume of products turned out, especially those of high quality, as well as improved items, was increased. Contract discipline was strengthened and the utilization of material and manpower resources was improved substantially. Many measures related to the technical re-equipment of enterprises were carried out.

At the same time, analysis of the industry's work attests to the fact that the new management methods are not being implemented fully. In connection with the instability which still exists in agricultural production, the plans for purchases of raw material are not being fulfilled by many enterprises, and planned targets are not being fulfilled by enterprises in sectors connected with processing it, for reasons not dependent on their work, which holds back their technical development and the incentive for labor collectives. Many enterprises are turning out to be in a difficult financial position. All this requires further improvement of the economic mechanism in the processing industry.

The transition in stages by all sectors of the national economy to full cost accounting and self-financing should be carried out in the current five-year plan in order to ensure that a unified system of economic machinery is functioning in the country in the 13th Five-Year Plan. In the USSR Gosagroprom system, one of the most important problems in the process is the shift to self-financing of sectors directly associated with the processing of agricultural raw material and the considerable amount of work to consolidate enterprises' financial position and develop the necessary reserve resources at them. The situation which has taken shape in the sugar industry attests to the fact that this problem requires immediate and thorough study. In the 11th Five-Year Plan, surcharges were added to purchase prices for the sale of sugar beets by individual farms above the average level developed in the 10th Five-Year Plan, as well as for an increase in their sugar content. But most of the farms were not in a position to exceed the average level of the volume of beets with high sugar content being sold.

Proposals have now been prepared for shifting the sugar industry to management methods which provide for an increase in its efficiency, for normalizing and strengthening the financial position of sugar plants, for intensifying the integration of beet-growing farms and beet-processing enterprises, and for reinforcing their economic motivation and responsibility for the end results of the work. At the same time, the basic principles of the economic mechanism of management in the APK, established by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "On further improving the economic mechanism of management in the country's agroindustrial complex," have been taken into

account. This will make it possible to introduce a unified financial and economic mechanism for all sectors of the agroindustrial complex in the future under conditions in which agroindustrial integration is developed.

With the aim of strengthening the ties between sugar plants and beet-growing farms and reinforcing their motivation in turning out the final product—granulated sugar, the USSR Gosagroprom's establishment of production systems in beet-growing areas for cultivating and processing sugar beets based on a cooperative arrangement among kolkhozes, sovkhozes and sugar plants appears to be expedient. Mutual economic relationships between sugar plants and beet-growing farms in production systems could be established on the basis of a single mechanism to provide incentive to fulfill the plan for supplying sugar to the state and to ensure the partners' economic responsibility for the end results of production and economic activity.

The results of this experiment will make it possible to work out more efficient forms of economic relations between the labor collectives of beet-growing farms and sugar plants.

A number of steps are being suggested for shifting sugar industry enterprises to full cost accounting and self-financing conditions on 1 January 1988. Further extension of the independence of sugar industry enterprises is being provided for, based on reduction of the number of planning indicators which are approved for them centrally, broad rights for enterprises in utilizing the profit remaining at their disposal, after accounting with the budget, to form economic incentive funds for production, to repay bank loans, and to establish a financial reserve fund and other planned payments.

In order to increase beet-growing farms' motivation to achieve end results in the work, it is expedient to evaluate fulfillment of plans in accordance with deliveries of sugar beets for the state and settlement for them based on their base sugar content. The sugar plants' activity may be evaluated by taking into account the increase in the volume of granulated sugar produced from beets and the coefficient of its extraction from beets compared with the average annual level reached over the preceding 5 years. This will make it possible to reinforce enterprise collectives' incentive to improve the use of raw material in industrial processing, reduce its losses, and increase the efficiency of sugar beet production as a whole.

It is also advisable to increase the economic responsibility of kolkhozes and sovkhozes for failure to deliver sufficient sugar beets for processing: by establishing insurance funds on farms with which financial losses incurred in poor harvest years could be made up for the sugar plants. A similar procedure ought to be extended to other sectors of agroindustrial production as well, apparently.

It is necessary to establish interrelated [skvoznyye] indicators for all components of the APK, intensify the integration of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and processing enterprises, define legal problems in their contract and cost accounting relationships more precisely, and establish an efficient mechanism for providing incentive to partners in the complex to achieve end results.

Solution of these and other pressing problems in the complex is possible, taking into account the fundamental restructuring of planning procedure from top to bottom which has now been put into effect and the revision of plan drafting practice.

In order to determine the directions for improving planning activity correctly, we need to critically evaluate the shortcomings which exist in this work first of all. The following are the principal ones. There has been a decline in the scientific substantiation of plans, fundamental principles of planning--balance and proportionality--have been violated, planning discipline has been weakened, and a subjective approach has prevailed in solving key individual national economic problems.

The June (1987) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, after reviewing the basic provisions for fundamental restructuring of the country's economic management, has adopted decisions which will make it possible to orient state planning toward mastery of the expenditure mechanism through the development of economic standards and limits which provide for close coordination between the cost accounting interests of enterprises and overall state interests.

8936
CSO: 1824/344

PARTY OFFICIAL EVALUATES APK ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Moscow POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE in Russian No 7, Jul 87 pp 101-109

[Article by V. Onisovets, deputy chief of the Department for Agriculture and the Food Industry of the CPSU Central Committee: "Agriculture: The Course of Intensification"]

[Text] The 27th CPSU Congress referred to the task of fully supplying the country with food as one of the paramount tasks which is to be performed in a very short period of time. The food problem is among the most burning problems of restructuring. For a long time, beginning in 1972 and all the way up to the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, we ran around in circles and marked time, to use M.S. Gorbachev's figurative expression. Then developments were outlined to improve things. But today these improvements must be accomplished still more rapidly, more decisively, and on a larger scale, especially since all the necessary preconditions already exist. After all, performance of the USSR Food Program is very crucial to the success that will be achieved in providing the Soviet people the projected rise in the standard of living and in increasing their motivation to do highly productive work.

The kinds of changes that took place in the agricultural sector of the economy last year, 1986. The results of the 1st year of the 12th Five-Year Plan indicate that the collectives of enterprises and organizations in the agroindustrial complex took effective steps toward accelerating socioeconomic development. They began to be more active in introducing the advances of scientific-technical progress and progressive know-how in the use of intensive and industrial technologies in field cropping and animal husbandry, the collective contract, and cost accounting [khozraschet], which has created good conditions for increasing production, for raising labor productivity, and for reducing costs.

We will illustrate what we have said with a few figures. The growth of the gross output of agriculture last year was more than 5 percent, and the increment was quite sizable--more than 10 billion rubles. For the first time in many years the rise in the cost of agricultural products was halted, and the rise of labor productivity achieved was faster than the growth of worker wages. Labor productivity on kolkhozes and sovkhozes rose 8.7 percent over 1985, in the food branches of industry it rose 5.7 percent, and remuneration

of personnel rose 5.7 and 3 percent, respectively. Material costs per 100 rubles of output dropped 2.5 percent. On the whole the economic efficiency of agricultural production rose 12 percent, and profit amounted to 24.6 billion rubles. More than 200 million tons of grain were produced, which is almost 30 million tons more than the average annual level in the last 5-year planning period. There has been an improvement in the supply of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit to the public.

Animal husbandry was an object of constant and justified criticism for a long time. Of course, even today there are still many problems here, but it needs to be noted that in the last 4 years the growth of this branch's output has taken on a definite stability. Moreover, the most sizable growth occurred last year. In 1986, 1.6 million tons more meat on the basis of live weight went to state resources than in 1985, the increase was 3.7 million tons for milk and nearly 3 billion eggs. All union republics and an absolute majority of oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics fulfilled annual planning targets for the sale of products of animal husbandry. This made it possible to increase meat consumption in the country to 62.5 kg on a per capita basis, consumption of milk and dairy products to 332 kg, and egg consumption to 265. Nevertheless, these figures are still very, very modest and far from what we want. In many regions of the country there is a shortage of meat products and dairy products and, incidentally, for a number of other products as well, for example, fruit and vegetables. And to solve this problem we actually need to double the growth rates of production of agricultural products.

One of the weak points in agriculture has been the lag in development of the social sphere. Pursuant to the decisions of the 27th party congress, greater attention is now being paid to this problem. Last year there was a notable stepup in construction of housing, roads, schools, preschool and medical institutions, clubs and culture centers, and enterprises providing consumer and trade services to the public.

There has been success in development of agricultural production, especially animal husbandry, but at the same time it is still early, of course, to say that operation of the country's agroindustrial complex has finally taken on the necessary acceleration, efficiency, and stability. There are still a great many shortcomings and negative things. Fulfillment of the USSR Food Program is being held back by the low productivity of field cropping and animal husbandry. The results of the last harvest showed once again that there have been intolerably large losses of the crop already raised right in the field because of poor preparation of equipment, because of tardiness in beginning the mowing, because of a disproportionate overloading of grain-harvesting combines, and because of the neglect of drying operations. As in the past, a great deal of farm produce is lost over the lengthy and thorny road from field to consumer. Because of losses along that route to the store shelf, between 15 and 20 percent of the food failed to reach the public. It is no accident that the problems of improving the storage and processing of farm products became a topic of serious discussion in a special conference held in the headquarters of the CPSU Central Committee on 25 May 1987.

By no means everyone has learned to make efficient and stewardly use of the state resources allocated to them. On a number of kolkhozes and sovkhozes

nonproduction costs are so high that right now they border on mismanagement and outright squandering. For example, on the farms of AzSSR, TuSSR, the North Ossetian and Chechen-Ingush ASSR's, Chita, Chimkent, and a number of other oblasts they are consuming 17-20 or more quintals of feed units to obtain a quintal of weight gain in cattle, which is more than twice as high as the standard.

In spite of a substantial rise of purchase prices and the introduction of price supplements on products sold to the state by lagging farms, more than 6,500 of the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes were still operating at a loss on the basis of 1986 results. The low level and slow growth rate of labor productivity in agriculture represent an exceedingly acute problem. Its rise is by no means commensurate with the immense resources invested nor with the opportunities afforded by the new conditions for the conduct of economic activity in the APK.

In the anniversary year which has begun, 1987, rural party organizations, soviets of people's deputies, agroindustrial associations, and personnel in the agricultural sector are waging a persistent struggle to eliminate the negative things and shortcomings, to guarantee a stable growth of production of farm products, and to consolidate and develop the constructive shifts that have been outlined. Particular attention, as in the past, is being paid to solve the grain problem. The harvest of sunflowers and other oil crops, potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, and fruit needs to be increased substantially, there has to be a further growth of production and purchases of meat, milk, and eggs, which will make it possible for the processing branches of the agroindustrial complex to expand their assortment and increase the volume of products they produce and to satisfy more fully the growing public demand for those products.

In addition to meeting their obligations to the state, kolkhozes and sovkhozes look to substantially increasing deliveries of fruit and vegetables and other products to the kolkhoz market. Favorable conditions, as is well known, have now been created for this. Farms have been granted the right to sell on the market and through enterprises in cooperative trade as much as 30 percent of vegetables called for by the plan of their sales to the state and their entire output over the plan, but at present very little advantage is being taken of this opportunity. Consumer cooperative organizations also need to substantially invigorate their effort to purchase the products of cropping and animal husbandry from farms and individuals and to process and sell them in specialized stores at negotiated prices.

Plans call for a further strengthening of the physical plant and equipment of the APK. In 1987, 44.6 billion rubles were allocated to develop agricultural production and related branches in the system of USSR Gosagroprom. Larger deliveries are being made of diverse highly productive equipment, fertilizers, chemicals for plant pest and disease control, and the social renewal of rural areas is to take on a still greater pace.

The tasks which now face farmworkers and their partners in the agroindustrial complex are not simple by any means. The planting has been the first serious test of this year. Because of the bad weather the planting period was pushed

back 2 or 3 weeks or even more in some places. Farmworkers were pushed to the limit of their energy and capabilities and have been using every potential and resource so as to gradually make up for what was lost.

Reality itself, the economic and social situation in the country, provide the motivation for seeking out new approaches in economic development, in solving the entire complex of the problems which face us. With respect to the agricultural sector this means finding ways and means which make it possible in a short time and at minimum cost to achieve high stable yields, high productivity in animal husbandry, and a sharp rise in labor productivity. Success here depends in large part on mastering the new economic methods, on improving the organization of production, and on the introduction of cost accounting.

The effectiveness of economic methods of management and of economic activity in agroindustrial production has been convincingly demonstrated by the scientific-production experiments conducted on the scale of Stavropol Kray and Vologda and a number of other oblasts. The essence of these experiments lies in extending to the farms broader rights in distribution and use of profit and in formation of cost-accounting funds. State budget appropriations have been reduced to a minimum and represent only a small portion of the funds being invested in the form of short-term credits to be repaid within the stipulated period. The supplements to the purchase prices have been included in the base price which the state pays the farms for the products sold to it.

As is well known, the broader independence and more efficient productive activity of agricultural enterprises are inseparably bound up with their transition to self-support and self-financing. But are all farms ready for this transition?

Calculations have shown that in the sector as a whole the self-support of economic activity occurs at an overall profitability level of at least 10 percent, taking into account that in certain subsectors costs may exceed the gain from the product sold. To achieve self-financing, profitability must be considerably higher, at least 35 percent.

The individual approach must, of course, be observed in the transition to the self-financing of agricultural enterprises of differing orientation. On such large specialized enterprises as industrial-type poultry farms it is possible to carry on economic activity successfully on the principles of self-financing at an overall profitability of 10-15 percent, while in swine-raising complexes the level of profitability has to be 25-30 percent. In enterprises specializing in fattening cattle and in the production of grain, cotton, oilseed, and other farm crops, the self-financing of expanded reproduction is guaranteed by a profitability of at least 40 percent.

Today profitability in a sizable portion of agricultural enterprises is still below the 25-35-percent limit which makes it possible to make the transition to self-financing of their own production activity. If the task which has been advanced by the party of gradual transition of all agricultural enterprises to self-support and self-financing is to be performed, there have to be resolute and immediate steps aimed at overcoming the lag of kolkhozes

and sovkhozes operating at a loss or at low profitability. In every rayon there must be a comprehensive plan that calls for introducing progressive forms of organization and work incentives on the weak farms, creation of stable work collectives, application of full mechanization and intensive technologies in cropping and animal husbandry, and accelerated social reorganization of rural areas.

The economic efficiency of any enterprise is determined by knowledgeable use of cost-accounting relations, proper organization of material incentives, and the close linkage of incentives to the end results of economic activity and to optimum and economical use of resources. The experience of many kolkhozes and sovkhozes and entire rayons, oblasts, krays, and republics shows that development of a stewardly attitude toward the work at hand, increased motivation of every worker and work collective to increase the yield of the product, to improve its quality, to reduce production cost, and to raise labor productivity is manifested with particular vividness when work is done under the collective contract. The contract method is now rightly considered a progressive form of cost-accounting relations within the economic entity. It is becoming the dominant form of all the forms of the organization of work on kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other enterprises of the agroindustrial complex and is having an ever more noticeable impact on their performance. Whereas in 1982 there were 57.6 production subdivisions on the country's farms working under a collective contract, in 1986 the number of contract collectives in cropping and animal husbandry increased to 410,000. They were assigned three-fourths of the pasture land, more than half of the cattle, 60 percent of the swine, and almost 80 percent of the sheep. The "top to bottom" contract, whereby not only the operatives themselves, but even the managers and specialists, make the transition to remuneration according to the end result, is being actively disseminated.

Among the various forms of the collective contract, those which have given the best account of themselves are those in which the links and brigades of intensive labor are small in the number of members and to which land, equipment, and other means of production have been assigned on a contract basis.

In Novosibirsk and Kurgan Oblasts such collectives have been in operation for more than a year. In 1986 they grew 500-700 tons of grain and 450 tons of potatoes on a per-man basis. D. Gunter's link on the experimental farm "Kochkovskoye" in Novosibirsk Oblast, which consists of five people, produced 280 tons of grain and 27.4 tons of meat per person, with the result of 89,000 rubles of all products. Direct labor inputs per quintal of grain in these collectives is between one-fifth and one-eighth of the average indicators for the country.

The family contract has become more and more widespread in various regions of the country. In ESSR, for example, there were 123 family livestock-raising projects in 1986: 95 for fattening livestock, 11 for raising swine, 10 for raising poultry, 6 dairy farms, and 1 apiary. On a khutor of the Sovkhoz "Luunya" in Tartu Rayon 31 dairy cows produced an average of 4,613 kg of milk on the small dairy farm run by the Yurgenson family. On a per worker basis the milk production was twice as high as in the sovkhoz as a whole. The

Graversons, man and wife, on the Kolkhoz "Payuzi" in Yygevaskiy Rayon last year milked an average of 5,149 kg of milk from 58 dairy cows they have taken over to 10, as against 4,095 kg in the kolkhoz as a whole.

In Vologda Oblast there is a family dairy farm with 97 cows on the Sovkhoz "Cherneyevskiy" in Sheksninskiy Rayon. The Nazimov family is performing effectively fattening cattle on the Sovkhoz "Rus Sovetskaya" in Ostrovskiy Rayon in Kostroma Oblast. On the Sovkhoz "Karamanlinskiy" in Sarmanovskiy Rayon of Tatar ASSR a family link consisting of 3 persons has been fattening 400 swine. The average daily weight gain there has been more than 500 grams.

The family contract is being energetically introduced in raising animal feed, growing grapes, and raising vegetable, melon, fruit and berry, and other crops.

However, in objectively evaluating the situation that has taken shape, we should note that in a number of oblasts, krays, and republics the formal approach has been taken to introducing the collective contract. On many kolkhozes and sovkhozes personnel are not being trained as they should be, contract obligations have not been sufficiently worked out, the contract collectives are not delivered physical resources on time, poor use is made of incentives for conservation of fuel, feed, and other resources, and there is a poor linkage between remuneration and the end results. Often the managers and specialists of the farms consider their duties in relations with contract collectives performed once the contract has been concluded, and they leave them to themselves with their difficulties. If they make it fine, if not, they themselves are at fault. Or, by contrast, they attempt to undermine the independence of the contract collectives, to manage them "through the head" of the bodies of self-management. They above all look to see that no one earns too much. Another serious oversight is that the structure of management of production at the level of the farms is not being brought into conformity with the needs of the new cost-accounting relations, and the bookkeeping and economic departments of kolkhozes and sovkhozes are operating disconnectedly. This detracts from the operating efficiency of contract collectives, and people's motivation to make the transition to this form of the organization of work, which is undoubtedly progressive, is undermined.

In a decree in December of last year the CPSU Central Committee set party committees the task of joining with party members of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other enterprises in the APK in critically examining the state of affairs with assimilation of the economic methods of economic activity in every work collective and of defining specific steps for the transition to cost accounting and the contract forms of organization and work incentives. Particular emphasis was put on the need to consistently broaden the economic independence of work collectives and to increase their role and responsibility for the end results of production and for performance of contract obligations.

The collective contract is becoming more important as the transition is made to intensive methods of producing the products of cropping and animal husbandry. These methods have yielded impressive results in recent years. The use of intensive technologies has made it possible to obtain 16 million tons of additional grain in 1985 and 24 million tons more in 1986. Moreover,

it is largely thanks to them that state granaries in 1986 received half again as much as in the previous year of high-quality hard, hardy, and other valuable varieties of wheat. In addition to grain crops, progressive methods are also being used in raising sugar beets, potatoes, vegetables, sunflowers, and rape.

But intensive technologies are not a magic wand that miraculously transforms the work of farmworkers. High results in applying intensive technologies are obtained only by those farms and rayons in which there is the strictest observance of production discipline and technological discipline, where the workers have a high level of professional skill and take a stewardly attitude toward the work at hand. In practice, however sad it may be, things are not that way always and everywhere by any means.

In the Ukraine, for example, many farms which observe all the requirements of the intensive technology are producing more than 40 quintals of wheat per hectare, 80-90 quintals of rice, and about 100 quintals of corn, while on certain of their neighbors in the same places, and on the same land, the average yields are only between half and two-thirds as high.

Last year the yield of winter wheat on an area of more than 1 million hectares in Krasnodar Kray was 45.5 quintals per hectare on intensive fields, almost 10 quintals more than where the ordinary technology was used. In Stavropol Kray the additional yield from the new technology was 9.6 quintals of grain per hectare. At the same time, in a number of oblasts of the Volga region, West Siberia, and Kazakhstan the additional yield of spring wheat raised according to the intensive technology was only 1 quintal or 1.5 quintals per hectare.

Intensive cropping requires additional expenditures, and the state is undertaking to make those expenditures, allocating the necessary funds. But how are the funds invested being used? Today, even though the outlays as a whole are showing a return, the yield is still below the standard. There are even farms where introduction of the new cropping methods has brought only losses. Their obviously must be greater responsibility at all levels for obtaining the programmed yields, and more must be expected not only of farmworkers, but also those who did not supply them the necessary equipment, fertilizer, and chemicals for plant pest and disease control on time.

The training of personnel in all categories--managers, specialists, brigade leaders, link leaders, and machine operators--is now being done locally so that the new technologies can be assimilated. Training has been organized on experimental and demonstration farms serving as base facilities; scientists and the best-qualified personnel in the agroindustry are being recruited to take part in it. Propagandists can and must make their contribution to this important cause by arranging talks by specialists and progressive innovators of agricultural production in classes given in the system of political and economics education.

Intensive production methods are becoming more widespread in animal husbandry. By the beginning of the present 5-year planning period 60 percent of the swine and 35 percent of the cattle were raised according to intensive technologies. The flow-line and shop system of milk production has been applied on farms

with about one-third of the socialized dairy herd. Poultry raising has been put entirely on an industrial basis.

Yet still the scientific-technical level of animal husbandry and accordingly the growth rates of the branch's output on many farms still do not meet the requirements of acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development, and the lag behind world achievements is still large. The productivity of livestock is rising extremely slowly, output per ruble of fixed capital is low, specific inputs of labor and feed are high, and the production cost of meat and milk is high.

In accordance with the USSR Food Program, plans call for increasing by 1990 milk production per dairy cow to 500-600 kg on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and in regions of advanced dairying the average annual milk production per dairy cow would be raised to 4,000 kg of milk, fattening periods of animals would be shortened, so that young cattle would be sold with weight conditions of at least 400-500 kg in 16-18 months.

In many of the country's republics, krays, and oblasts there are quite a few farms even today which are obtaining an average milk production of 5,500-6,500 kg or more per cow. But under exactly the same natural and economic conditions there are neighbor farms of the progressive kolkhozes and sovkhozes where dairy farming is conducted on a low zootechnical level. The task is for the know-how of the progressive farms to become the property of all the collectives of farms more rapidly and to have it put to practical use more vigorously. There is an immense potential here for increasing the production of milk, meat, and other products.

The most realistic and rapid way of increasing the efficiency of a dairy herd is to introduce the flowline-shop system on the basis of farm reconstruction, which makes it possible to assimilate the new organizational forms of work and to create the necessary conditions for feeding and managing the animals so as to take into account their physiological condition, and that means to increase their productivity and improve the indicators of herd reproduction. The farms of many republics, krays, and oblasts are moving in this direction.

An effective effort is being made to convert milk production to the progressive technology on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of BSSR, MSSR, LiSSR, LaSSR, and ESSR, Altay Kray, and Leningrad, Moscow, Crimean, and a number of other oblasts. Herdsmen of the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in Tula Oblast, who have been working with the new technology have milked more than 5,500 kg of milk from every cow, those of the Kolkhoz "Tervete" in Dobelskiy Rayon in LaSSR 6,147 kg, those in the state breeding farms "Lesnoye" and "Petrovskoye" in Leningrad Oblast 6,700, and on the Experimental and Demonstration Farm "Nemchinovka" 7,720 kg, while inputs of feed per unit output were reduced, the production cost was lowered, and labor productivity increased.

Yet in spite of the obvious advantages of the flowline-shop system, agroindustry authorities of a number of republics, krays, and oblasts have still not taken the necessary steps to introduce it widely into production. At the present time it has been applied on only a third of the dairy farms. In the republics of the Transcaucasus and Kursk, Kalinin, and Novgorod Oblasts

only 2-4 percent of the dairy cows have been converted to the flowline-shop system. It is obvious that agroindustrial committees, RAPO councils, and farm specialists and managers should be more responsive and bold in undertaking to solve the specific problems involved in conversion of dairy farming to progressive technologies.

Increasing the weight conditioning and reducing the time required to raise and fatten livestock represent an important potential for boosting meat resources. But this potential is something else that at present is not being utilized everywhere. Whereas the farms in the Baltic republics and a number of oblasts in RSFSR and the Ukraine are supplying cattle to meat combines weighing 400-440 kg, in many rayons of KiSSR, TaSSR, and the Kalmyk and Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republics their weight is 100-120 kg less. Low weight gains means that it takes a longer time to raise and fatten the livestock, and the inputs of labor and resources per unit output are increased.

Experience shows that high results are being achieved in the intensification of beef production where the comprehensive approach is applied along with measures to strengthen the animal feed base and to improve the production technology, and where the organizational and economic potential is activated.

In Cherkassy and Belgorod Oblasts, for example, beef production has been put entirely on an industrial basis. A system of specialized farms for the finishing and final fattening of the animals is in operation there; it makes it possible to achieve weight gains counted in kilograms. The delivery weight of livestock in these oblasts has exceeded 400 kg in recent years. Beef production has been organized in an analogous way in Penza, Kiev, and a number of other oblasts.

The potential for intensification of swine raising needs to be utilized more fully. At present the weight gains remain low in this branch. Here again introduction of the flow-line production technology on the basis of reconstruction and modernization of the farms is capable of yielding a large benefit. In Estonia, for example, the value of costs per stall space is one-fifth as great in reconstruction as when new mechanized enterprises are built, and pork production per unit area has doubled. At present kolkhoz and sovkhoz livestock projects which have undergone reconstruction and have been converted to the progressive flowline-shop system account for 95 percent of all the pork produced in the republic.

Intensive production methods are being applied in sheep raising. On the Kolkhoz "Zavety Ilicha" in Stavropol Kray, for example, where young sheep are raised and fattened in mechanized areas, a single shepherd-machine operator attends 4,000-5,000 head, or 10-12-fold more than when the animals are kept on pasture. Since the industrial technology of fattening the sheep has been introduced, mutton production per head has increased more than threefold on the farm.

A broad range of problems needs to be solved for intensification of livestock raising. One of the most important directions of this effort has been and still is to feed animals more and better feeds. The effort toward accelerated conversion of animal feed production to the intensive strategy does not at

present meet in all respects the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress. Many farms are attempting just as in the old days to strengthen the feed base by expanding crop areas planted to feeds. The yield of feed crops is growing slowly. Particular attention should be paid to improving the proportional composition of feed rations. The present patterns of feeding livestock, which are calculated for high consumption in the winter period of silage and straw with low nutritional value, concentrates which have not been balanced with respect to protein, are holding back the rise in the productivity of animal husbandry and causing an overexpenditure of feed, above all grain, and they are making production of the product more expensive.

The state of affairs in animal feed production is cause of serious concern. At this point a real battle needs to be waged for animal feeds. And that battle has already begun. Particular concern should be paid to creating reliable stocks of high-quality coarse and succulent feeds. The opportunities for this exist everywhere, and they cannot be overlooked by any means. On every farm at least 20 quintals of feed units per standard head of livestock must be put by for the coming winter season.

One of the most acute problems in animal feed production is the problem of protein. Protein deficiency is the reason for the lower productivity of the animals and for overexpenditure of the feed. Because the rations have not been balanced with respect to protein, there is an annual overexpenditure of approximately 25-30 million tons of feed units, and this has to be made up with grain.

Expansion of plantings and a rise in the yield of legumes and alfalfa must provide a rise in the protein content of rations. A particular role in solving the problem of feed protein today is being given to oilseed crops--sunflowers, rape, gold of pleasure, and others. A decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers has worked out a set of measures to increase the motivation of farms to increase production and sales of oilseed to the state (see SELSKAYA ZHIZN, 15 May 1987).

Much attention is now being paid to rape, which is a valuable protein crop. Every ton of the seed of this crop can yield 400 kg of vegetable oil and 600 kg of high-protein oilseed meal. Its yield is also high. In Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast, for example, winter rape yields about 20 quintals of seed per hectare, while on the best farms the yield is about 40 quintals per hectare. In Lipetsk, Voronezh, Moscow, Omsk, and other oblasts they harvest 15-20 quintals of spring rape per hectare. The growing of the seed is now being organized, and a line of special machines has been put into production for cultivating rape and for harvesting and processing its seed. At the same time in certain places they are still only looking into this crop, weighing it, marking time. The task is to give rape an open road into the country's fields.

Strengthening the animal feed base depends directly upon efficient use of the natural land--the principal reserve for production of coarse, green, and pasture feeds. Yet people quite often forget about improvement of natural land in order to expand the production of forage on a farm's pastures. As a consequence meadows have often been neglected, grown up with weeds, or trodden down by unsystematic pasturing. The experience of a number of kolkhozes and

sovkhozes demonstrates that even a simple improvement of pastures by removing their stumps and brush, applying organic and mineral fertilizers, and planting grass make it possible to increase several times over the yield of feed per unit area. This potential can and needs to be utilized on every farm.

Those farms which are introducing progressive technologies of preparing hay, haylage, and silage, which are making extensive use of chemical and biological preservatives, and are creating facilities for storing and processing feed are achieving great success in raising the level and value of livestock nutrition. As shown by the calculations of specialists, in a short time this method can increase by 30-50 percent the return from feed resources and increase the production of the products of livestock raising correspondingly.

For example, on the Kolkhoz "Pobeda" in Kanevskiy Rayon of Krasnodar Kray, where more than 11,000 head of cattle are kept on livestock farms, all feeds are given year-round only in prepared form. This makes it possible to achieve high production indicators. Milk production per cow exceeds 4,500 kg there, and 1.2-1.3 quintals of feed units are consumed per quintal of milk.

Good experience in using high-protein feeds manufactured from local raw materials has been gained in Belgorod Oblast, where 18 interfarm shops have been set up to process whole milk substitutes, 8 shops for making technical fabrications from meat scraps, 2 plants for making dry fodder yeast, a shop for dry mycelium, an interfarm plant for processing the plant matter gathered in the forests and on land unsuitable for feed cropping. All of this makes it possible for the farms in the oblast to obtain an additional 70,000 tons of feed units and 12,000 tons of digestible protein.

In many regions of the country today they have put into production protein-vitamin additives with high raw protein content and also all the necessary trace elements, macroelements, and vitamins.

Such additives have been manufactured since 1985 on special devices in the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in Novomoskovskiy Rayon of Tula Oblast and the Kolkhoz "Pobeda" in Kanevskiy Rayon of Krasnodar Kray. The products of these plants are being delivered to 10 kolkhozes and sovkhozes in RSFSR.

Protein-rich additives afford a real possibility of completely balancing the rations of livestock with respect to all nutrients and of achieving high livestock productivity. For instance, in Moscow Oblast on the Kolkhoz "Pamyat Ilicha" in Shchelkovskiy Rayon 100 tons of additives were used in the winter of 1985-1986 in feeding 745 dairy cows. In a year the farm increased milk production per dairy cow 182 kg to an annual production of 4,780 kg, fat content in the milk increased 0.04 percent, the number of calves was increased by four, and the length of the service period was reduced by 5 days.

Science and practice have worked out a broad range of technological and organizational solutions that make it possible to obtain the products of animal husbandry at the lowest cost, to raise labor productivity considerably, and to improve the economic indicators of the branch. At the same time the pace of the work being done to retool animal husbandry and introduce industrial methods of producing meat, milk, and other products still do not

fully meet the tasks of the branch's accelerated development. Quite often the concern for intensification of animal husbandry is limited only to creating production capacities, without being properly backed up by organizational and technical measures to strengthen the animal feed base and to utilize more fully the productive potential that has been created. As a consequence the existing capacity has not been put to full use, and the farms fall short in their output by a large amount. The advances of science and technology and progressive know-how have to become the property of the collectives of herdsmen as quickly as possible. And it is very important to every innovation be introduced not as some foreign body, but become an organic part of the technological and economic process of the livestock-raising enterprise and the social life of the work collective.

Specialists and managers of farms and rural party organizations have a paramount role to play in performing the tasks that face the country's agriculture. They are expected to create everywhere the conditions and forms of organization of production which will make it possible for every worker to feel himself a true boss of the enterprise, kolkhoz, and sovkhoz and to work at the height of his energy to fulfill the country's Food Program.

7045
CSO: 1824/343

EXPANDED PRIVATE PLOT RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SOUGHT

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jul 87 p 2

[Interview with Veniamin Alekseyevich Goryashin, deputy chairman of RSFSR Gosagroprom, by IZVESTIYA special correspondent R. Bikmukhametov: "The Resources of the Private Farmyard"; date and place not given; first two paragraphs are IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] The Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, in a session held 23 July, discussed the question of urgent measures to meet the requirements of the June Plenum for fuller performance of the tasks of the Food Program.

It has been recommended that the limits on the number of livestock which can be kept and the maximum side of homestead plots be revised in order to increase the contribution of private farming projects of individuals to solving the food problem. Plans call for improving the supply of livestock feeds, young livestock and poultry, and power tools and implements to private farms and for extending them help in selling the products they produce.

[Question] Who will now determine the limits on the livestock that can be kept on personal farms and the size of homestead plots, and how will this be determined?

[Answer] Above all, of course, this is the job of local soviets. On the basis of the specific conditions, they will determine the possibilities for increasing the size of homestead plots and for allocating land for collective orchards and gardens. But the republic gosagroprom will not remain in the role of an aloof observer. We have just had a collegium which discussed the state of affairs with private farming operations, and it specifically outlined measures to sharply increase the sale of young livestock and poultry to individuals. Whereas last year kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Russian Federation set aside 9.3 million young pigs for rural inhabitants, which comes out to an average of 100 young pigs for every 100 farmyards, it has been proposed that this figure be at least doubled over the next 2 or 3 years.

How? We have recommended to all kolkhozes and sovkhozes without exception that they set up swine-raising operations, including what are referred to as nonmarket operations, and they would turn over all the young pigs they raise to be fattened on private farms.

Today there is practically no restriction on the keeping of cattle either. But people are not always willing to take young bulls for fattening, since another problem immediately arises....

[Question] The problem with animal feed, with the source of fodder?

[Answer] Exactly. We have also given some thought to this. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes can now turn over sections of land to rural inhabitants for permanent use to raise animal feed. In the Nonchernozem Zone of RSFSR, and indeed in other zones as well, there is quite a bit of land unsuitable for field crops and meadows and where you cannot take heavy equipment. If an individual knows that a plot has been assigned to him on a long-term basis, he will not spare his energy in removing stumps and brush, in fertilizing the land so as to obtain two- or threefold more hay or other feed. And the sovkhoz or kolkhoz will have an additional quantity of meat.

Another way is to increase payment in kind with grain and animal feed for the work of kolkhoz members and sovkhoz workers in the socialized field and to furnish animal feed to those rural inhabitants who have concluded contracts with a farm to fatten livestock and poultry....

[Question] You say that you have recommended. Yet letters coming in from various localities show that sometimes recommendations are not enough....

[Answer] The decisions we have now taken, it should be empnasized, are binding on all regional subdivisions of RSFSR Gosagroprom and all kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

[Question] Yet another important question arises. Let us suppose people have been assigned a plot of land from which they will harvest animal feed. What will be the situation with power tools and implements?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the machinebuilders have still not turned to the needs of rural inhabitants. There is an acute need for minitractors and mini-mowing machines. But people should not wait passively until all this arrives. There is experience and very constructive experience in using the equipment that already exists. For instance, on the "Rossiya" Kolkhoz in Kursk Oblast a specialized subdivision has been organized to serve private farming projects. The machine operators fulfill requests of rural inhabitants to plow up gardens and plots for growing animal feed, they help them harvest the feed, they provide transportation, and do repair work.

[Question] Incidentally, Veniamin Alekseyevich, can one now keep a horse in a private farmyard?

[Answer] All the restrictions have been removed here as well. Plots of land will even be allocated to grow animal feed.

[Question] Let us suppose that a rural inhabitant raises a certain number of young bulls, swine, or poultry in his farmyard. How can he quickly sell what he had produced and make a gain?

[Answer] If the fattening has been done under contract with a kolkhoz or sovkhoz, then today there are no complications here whatsoever. Previously there were because the meat produced on the private farm was not counted against the plan of the kolkhoz or sovkhoz. Now there is no such barrier. So that in any case, even without a contract, the farm is motivated to obtain what household livestock projects have produced. But there is also another route that can be taken: to set up cooperatives to purchase and sell the products of the private farming operations.

7045
CSO: 1824/342

POTATO CROP PROGRESS, PROBLEMS IN BELORUSSIA

Treatments for Various Potato Conditions

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 87 p 4

["Why Are the Potatoes Diseased?"]

[Text] Experience reveals that the potato harvest from private plots in our republic is on the average 30 percent lower than that being obtained at kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Actually, the plots set aside for private use lack crop rotation plans, each year the potatoes are planted using mainly the same seed material and as a rule protective measures are not carried out against pests and diseases. As a result, the private plots have become the principal centers for the spread of potato canker, nematodes, the Colorado potato beetle, late blight of potatoes, microsporiosis and virus diseases. In this regard, the carrying out of the entire system of protective measures for potatoes on private plots is of great importance not only to the owners of these plots. The specialists and leaders of local farms must carry out explanatory work among the population and furnish the people with skilled assistance.

Special attention must be given to the following aspects. Varieties must be planted which have been regionalized for the particular area; early potatoes, which are the source for infection by late blight of potatoes, must not be planted in the immediate vicinity of late varieties; potatoes must not be planted following tomatoes or together with them, since these crops are infected by the same diseases; beets must be avoided as a predecessor crop since they increase the contamination by potato scab and brown patch; the tubers to be planted should be selected the previous year from healthy and especially fruitful bushes (they must be singled out during blossoming and harvested prior to the general potato harvest); the plants must be treated in a timely manner against late blight of potatoes and the Colorado potato beetle. The bushes singled out for seed purposes should be dug up 10-12 days prior to the harvest and healthy tubers weighing 50-60 grams should be selected. The seed material should be stored separately. Prior to the harvest, the haulm of the potatoes is cut off and removed from the field. Once dug up, the tubers should not be covered with a special material, since this

leads to contamination of the tubers by late blight of potatoes and bacterial diseases.

The weather conditions experienced last year promoted rather strong contamination of the potatoes by tuber rot. In this regard, use should be made of appropriate prophylactic measures during the planting period and when making preparations for planting, measures aimed at destroying or suppressing the further development of diseases, since their causative agents hibernate mainly in the seed material.

The potatoes should be planted in soil which has warmed to a temperature of 7-8 degrees at the planting depth. Potassium plays a special role in raising the resistance of potato plants and tubers against diseases and thus when applying mineral fertilizers to the soil prior to planting, the content of potassium and phosphorus in the fertilizer should be raised by 10-15 percent. For combating potato scab, a portion of the mineral fertilizer should ideally be replaced by acid forms: superphosphate and ammonium sulphate. An application of fresh farmyard manure directly to the potatoes is not recommended, since this promotes the development of potato scab. It is best used in behalf of a predecessor crop. Rotted farmyard manure or a combination of compost and such manure can be applied directly to potato plants. It should be remembered that excessively limed soil causes harm to potatoes.

Healthy and undamaged tubers should be employed for planting purposes. Cutting of the potatoes is not recommended -- infection sufficient for contaminating the next 20-25 tubers can remain on a blade after cutting a tuber contaminated by bacteriosis.

The seed material is cultivated over a period of 20-25 days at a temperature of 15-20 degrees. This promotes the formation of an early harvest prior to the mass manifestation of late blight of potatoes. In order to raise the resistance of the plants against this disease, the tubers should ideally be dampened with a 0.02-0.1 percent solution of blue vitriol 7-10 days after the commencement of sprouting. This measure can be repeated 7 days prior to planting.

Amateur gardeners raise their tubers in polyethylene packets, in peat meal and under plastic coverings, they employ nursery cultivation of the seedlings and they also treat them prior to planting with growth substances (heteroauxin, gibberellin and succinic acid).

* * *

A reader of SELSKAYA GAZETA in the rayon center of Dubrovits in Rovno Oblast, G. Duka, requests advice: "Many of my seed potato tubers have brown spots inside. Will this not affect the future harvest?"

Certainly, it is difficult to determine fully and reliably the nature of the damage to the tubers without first seeing them. But if there is no specialist available for furnishing advice, then the following information could prove helpful. If the brown spots follow the ring of the tuber cut, then the condition is more than likely adenogenous blight. It could have been caused

by unfavorable growing or nutritional conditions for the potatoes during the past year. Such tubers can be planted. But grey spots within a tuber testify to the presence of a tuber virus. This disease is actively transferred by a nematode to young plants and thus the seed material should be replaced.

Raising Disease Resistance of Potato Plants

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Jun 87 p 3

[Article by Ye. Kolonitskaya, head of the Republic Laboratory for Forecasts and Diagnostics and N. Kharchenko, head of the Laboratory for Forecasts of BelNIIZR]

[Text] During the second 10-day period in June, the mass laying of eggs by the Colorado potato beetle and the commencement of hatching of its larvae are expected in potato plantings in the republic's southern zone and infestation by potato plant pests is expected in the central and northern zones. However, selective chemical treatments on early plantings, with the maintenance of warm weather in Gomel and Brest oblasts, will commence no earlier than the fourth five-day period in June, with mass treatments being carried out during the third 10-day period in June. In the central and northern rayons, selective protective measures are expected towards the end of June and mass treatments in July.

In recent years, an increase has been noted throughout the republic in the number of plants having bacterial diseases. Of these diseases, wire stem and brown bacterial rot are being found most often. These diseases are also expected to appear this season. In order to raise the resistance of the potato plants against diseases, it is recommended that the crops be sprayed with microdosages of copper when they have reached 15-20 centimeters in height and that phyto-cleaning of the seed tracts be carried out. This will sanitize the plantings to a considerable degree.

Protective Measures for Potato Plants

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jun 87 p 3

[Article by V. Kurilov, head of a laboratory for protecting potatoes against pests and diseases of BelNIIZR and G. Sheleg, leading agronomist of the Administration for Plant Protection of the Belselkhozkhimiya RPNO: "Reliable Protection for Potatoes"]

[Text] The weather conditions favor the development of those pests and diseases which can bring about a considerable shortfall in the potato crop and lower the seed qualities of the tubers. The crops are presently being infested by aphids and the virus disease is spreading. In order to prevent this from happening, prophylactic treatments should be carried out during the period of complete seedlings on the original nurseries , meristematic potatoes and also on super-elite and elite sowings using phosphamide, phozalone or kronetone. Thorough sanitary phyto-cleanings should also be carried out on the seed production sowings. The symptoms of the more harmful virus and bacterial diseases -- leaf rolling virus, wrinkly leaf mosaic and wire stem --

appear during the period of complete seedlings. The second cleaning should be carried out during the period of mass blossoming and the third -- prior to destruction of the haulm (two weeks prior to the harvest). When carrying out phyto-sanitary cleanings, the haulm and tubers of rejected plants should be removed from the fields on the very same day.

When the plants have reached a height of 15-20 centimeters, one should keep in mind the phytophthora infection and organize a treatment using a 0.1 percent solution of blue vitriol.

The mass laying of eggs by the Colorado potato beetle and the hatching of its larvae are taking place in potato plantings in the southern and central zones of the republic. Infestation by this pest and the laying of its eggs are also taking place in the northern zone. The optimum period for employing chemical and biological agents for combating this pest occurs when there is a predominance in the larvae population of the first through the third age groups. It is during this phase that they are most sensitive to insecticides and do not cause any harm to the haulm. The greatest harm is inflicted by larvae of the fourth age group, which is more immune to preparations. For all practical purposes, the laying of eggs is not hindered by chemical treatments.

These insecticides are recommended for combating the Colorado potato beetle. The republic has been supplied with adequate quantities of volatone, detsis, tsimbush, rovikurt and dursban. Treatments involving use of the first four agents must be terminated 20 days prior to the commencement of the harvest and that with dursban -- 30 days prior.

The farmers have at their disposal the biopreparation bitoksibacillin. The crops can be treated with it up to three times. It is available in the retail trade in packaged form -- 200-300 grams. Thus it will be employed extensively on private plots.

Favorable conditions have been created for the appearance and spread of phytophthora infection, wire stem and brown bacterial rot. Thus priority importance is being attached to the timely and high quality carrying out of fungicide treatments on growing plants. Protection against phytophthora infection must commence with the early ripening varieties. The first spraying is carried out in accordance with reports from signalization points and forecasts and also depending upon the phase of potato development (budding -- commencement of blossoming). The second and subsequent sprayings of early and other varieties are organized 10-12 days later.

In carrying out the first two treatments against phytophthora infection, it is recommended that urea (20 kilograms per hectare) be added to the fungicide. It stabilizes the suspension, it raises the toxicity of the preparations and it strengthens the resistance of the plants to the pathogen. When the treatments against the Colorado potato beetle and the phytophthora infection coincide, it is recommended that "all-inclusive" sprayings be carried out.

Fungicides of systemic and contact action are employed against the phytophthora infection and other diseases. In view of the fact that ridomil has both a prophylactic protective and curative effect, the first treatment

should be carried out using artseride (plant mixture of ridomil with polycarbacine) and the second -- a tank mixture of ridomil with sineb, polycarbacine or cuprozan. Subsequent treatments should be carried out using cuprozan, polycarbacine or sineb, while alternating their use.

All of the measures must be carried out under the direction of farm agronomists and specialists attached to the plant protection service.

7026
CSO: 1824/327

PRODUCE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS FROM SOUTH TO INDUSTRIAL CENTERS

Early Vegetables Delayed in Reaching Consumer

Moscow GUDOK in Russian 7 Jul 87 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Why Early Vegetables Are Delayed in Reaching the Consumer"]

[Text] It is the height of summer but after looking into some vegetable stores and markets in Moscow, Leningrad and other industrial centers one would not know this. A recent survey of the capital's residents carried out by Central Television has also confirmed that something is not in order as concerns the gifts of summer. Store counters do not even have the necessary assortment. At the same time, there are excessive lines and high prices at the market. The situation is extremely intolerable.

The situation has become the subject of serious discussion at the sorters' conference in the MPS [Ministry of Railroads]. It was noted that among the problems brought up at the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee the Food Program was put into the category of those which could not tolerate procrastination and which only a minimal time has been spent on. This was sharply mentioned at the 27th party congress. However, this important task is not given the necessary attention by party, soviet and economic organs. An especially alarming situation has developed with regard to the delivery of early vegetables to the union fund--the fund for supplying industrial centers--from the republics of Central Asia. The directors of agroproms [agro-industrial associations] in Azerbaijan and Georgia were also subject to severe criticism.

As a result of impracticable requests, 4,000 refrigerator cars are sitting idle on Azerbaijan and Transcaucasus railroads expecting to be loaded. At the same time in the republics of Central Asia there is a shortage of such cars. Section directors are writing about this to the editors with indignation and perturbation. Moreover, this leap-frog in planning has been going on for a long time. Railroad workers assure us that as long as economic factors are not introduced it will be impossible to bring order in this matter.

Only on 1 July were 136 of the planned 217 cars dispatched in Azerbaijan. And of the 36 refrigerated cars earmarked for tomatoes, only four were loaded.

Many directors point to the late spring, which delayed the maturation period. But what weather caprices do we use to explain mismanagement and indifference to that which is cultivated? Poor quality vegetables are loaded into railway cars with the knowledge that the recipient will simply discard a portion of them. GUDOK wrote about this recently. Alas, the necessary screening has not been implemented. Decisive steps are needed here. Station directors are still closing their eyes to these outrages, saying that their business is elsewhere. Their position is intolerable and harmful. It smells of the bureaucracy and arrant departmentalism that flourished in previous years. By the mercy of such miserable workers only 70 percent of products from Azerbaijan has been recognized as standard, and even this was a result of stretching the point.

Railroad workers are not expressing the necessary persistence in organizing loading and unloading on a 24-hour basis. Only in late June did 112 cars carrying perishable goods converge on the port of Osetrovo in expectation of being unloaded. Four sections with early vegetables stood there for 10 days. In May practically all fruit and vegetable associations in Moscow unloaded rolling stock only during the daytime. Cabbage, cucumbers and bananas had to wait several days to be unloaded. This has been going on for several years. In Kaluga, Ulyanovsk and at Liyv's Pribaltiyskaya Station last fall grapes awaited recipients for 10 days. One can imagine what was left of the grapes.

There are many such instances. Today we must discuss the fact that personal material responsibility should be demanded for these errors. This includes the responsibility of railroad workers. After all, products are moved 600-850 kilometers per day instead of 900. On the Privolzhskaya trains travel only 483 kilometers daily. There is no dispatcher control here. Things have been allowed to proceed undirected.

In order to accelerate the delivery of fruits and vegetables to Moscow, MPS has proposed to USSR Gosagroprom [State Agroindustrial Committee] and Tsentrosoyuz [Central Union of Consumers' Societies] that produce be shipped not in individual sections but as refrigerator block trains. However, consignors of goods have not yet created the necessary conditions. As a result, the delivery of shipments is delayed.

We must also mention the inefficient shipments which also result in considerable losses. For example, early cabbage from Azerbaijan was sent to the Urals region. At the same time this vegetable was shipped from the republics of Central Asia to Belorussia, the Ukraine and the Baltic States. Delivery plans already call for the reciprocal shipment of onions, grapes, tomatoes, potatoes and other products.

At present measures are being taken to correct the existing situation. Within the MPS the shipment of perishable products has been placed under special control.

V. P. Nikonov, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, V. S. Pasternak, Director of the Department of Transportation and Communication, responsible workers of party and soviet organs, and the

directors of a number of ministries and departments participated in the sorters' conference.

Products Hindered in Reaching Consumer

Moscow GUDOK in Russian 30 Jul 87 p 1

[Interview with A. Adylov, Deputy Director of the Central Asian Railroad and with B. Skvirskiy, Director of the Section on Shipment Conditions for Perishables by F. Ovechkin, Tashkent: "Difficult Path to the Store Counter: Why Vitamin Products Do Not Reach the Consumer"]

[Text] The shipment of vegetables and fruit from southern to central and northern regions of the country is in full swing. Is demand for the gifts of fields and orchards being met fully and what is the quality of these products? These questions are not at all idle ones. For example, GUDOK quite recently criticized the Azerbaijan railroad for the low quality of the vegetables and fruit it ships. Nevertheless, in Azerbaijan the criticism was taken in a strange manner and the methods that were chosen in the struggle for quality were unacceptable.

In other words, much of what was planned for the beginning of shipments of perishables in no way meets the presented requirements, which is the subject of the article by our correspondent.

For over a month now mass shipments of early vegetables and fruits to residents of the central, northern and eastern parts of the country have been taking place. How are plans for the shipment of vitamin products being fulfilled? What is the quality of these products? These questions were asked of A. Adylov, Deputy Director of the Central Asian Railroad, by the GUDOK correspondent.

[Answer] The season for shipping perishables is developing successfully here this year. Thanks to extensive preparations locally and efficient aid from MPS as of today we have been able to dispatch almost 19,000 cars loaded with cabbage, tomatoes, apples, potatoes, grapes and watermelon. This equals 103 percent of the plan. Moreover, in comparison with the same period last year the volume of shipments of perishables increased by 21 percent. This has been achieved by means of the fact that 700 kilograms more vegetables and fruits are being loaded into each car as compared to last year. The speed of through goods-trains has increased significantly.

[Question] Have any new forms in the organization of shipments and the sale of perishables being put into effect?

[Answer] According to a contract between MPS and USSR Gosagroprom we have begun, for the first time, to utilize the dispatching of special-purpose block trains to trade fairs. For example, seven through block trains with the most varied vegetables and fruit have already left the Turkmen SSR for Moscow. They travel according to the schedule for passenger trains. Moreover, travelling with the train are not only the escorts but also the sellers. Once

the trains arrive at their destination the sellers immediately organize the sale of their produce.

[Question] Ahead lies the peak season for vitamin shipments. Can you assure us that the achieved pace will not decrease when the transport conveyor is fully activated?

[Answer] Yes, we can assure you of this. We have developed a solid reserve of refrigerator cars and covered cars in the loading area and specialists with all the necessary repair equipment have been concentrated there. Thus railroad workers are carrying out their work on schedule and with quality.

[Question] Still even with a general satisfactory situation approximately every tenth vegetable car is delayed in reaching the customer. There are also many complaints about the quality of the goods being shipped. In the cars that come to consumers a considerable portion of the produce does not have a commercial appearance.

[Answer] You are right. It is true that we still have many unsolved problems.

The fact that the dispatchers do not have the necessary quantity of storehouses, refrigerators and loading ramps serious hinders the vegetable shipment conveyor. Because of this railroad cars are loaded with 3-4 day old produce. The railroad has turned more than once to the administrative organs of Central Asian republics with a proposal to expand the storage facilities located on railroad lines. But radical, effective measures have not been taken anywhere.

[Question] How effective is the influence of railroad workers on the quality of products loaded into cars?

The GUDOK correspondent asked this question of B. Skvirskiy, Director of the Section on Shipping Conditions for Perishables.

[Answer] Shipment volumes are very large. For this reason we are able to carry out only selective checks. But even they are effective to a considerable degree. Suffice it to say that due to our inspections about 30 percent of the produce earmarked for shipment is eliminated because it is unsuitable for shipping. For example, several days ago at Leninabad Station our workers examined a batch of watermelons earmarked for shipment to Moscow. It was discovered that most of the fruit was too ripe, damaged and rotting. As a result, the entire batch weighing 110 tons was sent back to the procurement office for resorting.

B. Skvirskiy's statement brings us to the thought that similar cases will be repeated later. This will continue until the parties who are guilty of mismanagement are forced to face material and administrative responsibility. Consequently, during the season of mass shipments of perishables the railroad must operate in closer contact with committees of people's control and with the office of the public prosecutor of union republics. Then fruit and

vegetable discards will not be loaded into cars and sent to distant consumers under the guise of gifts from orchards and fields.

Increasing Efficiency in Railroad Shipments

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 17 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by O. Frolova: "Green Light for the Harvest: The APK [Agro-Industrial Complex]--To the Consumer Without Losses"]

[Text] Trains laden with vegetables and fruit hurry day and night along the tracks--70 percent of the harvest cultivated in the country's enterprises is shipped by railroad. It is not easy to deliver these perishable goods to stores in good condition. At bi-weekly meetings of the executive staff of the USSR Ministry of Railways there are discussions on how to perform this job more quickly and better. Participating in these meetings are representatives of USSR Gosagroprom, Tsentrosoyuz, the USSR Ministry of Trade and other organizations, on whom the quality of the fruit on our table depends.

"Today apples, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers and other products come from Central Asia to the capital's markets in precisely this manner," says V. Krylov, Director of the Department for Implementing the Shipment of Perishables of USSR MPS. "Conveniently and rapidly."

Transportation workers are helped to organize routes during harvesting by USSR Gosagroprom and Tsentrosoyuz. But the latter do not always rise to the occasion. For example, in Azerbaijan cabbage is loaded at seven stations. Each processes 15,000-20,000 tons per season. This year a shipment of 8,500 tons of cabbage for Moscow was divided among seven stations. The Ukraine will ship 7,000 tons of tomatoes to the capital, but this crop will be loaded in 5 different oblasts! Is this normal?

Train schedules are basically adhered to, but it should be said that there is a shortage of refrigerator cars even though fruit can travel only in these. This is due to the lack of promptness on the part of suppliers and recipients. Thus, according to orders by Gosagroprom and Azerbaijan's Tsentrosoyuz over 800 cars were provided during the first two weeks of July, but only half were loaded up. Why?

There are many other hindrances throughout the entire journey of vegetables and fruit. They can be stored for a period of time in refrigerators. This is well-known to those who must unload the produce and move it to stores. Is this why trade workers are in no rush? At the port of Osetrov on the Lena unloaded cars stand for 5-10 days. Right now cabbage has been stored there for 2 weeks. The shipment schedule of 15 days for refrigerator cars as indicated by specialists is already over.

Inefficient unloading and loading complicates the work of railroad workers. Incidentally, these workers do not become flustered. At the staff meeting it became clear that under local conditions (what, where, what type of quality of produce to be loaded) they find their bearings no worse than specialists of

USSR Gosagroprom. Otherwise how would they have been able to ship the cabbage out of Central Asia? The shipment that was unloaded was 74,000 tons greater than indicated by the plan assigned to railroad workers by USSR Gosagroprom at the beginning of the year.

Today the Central Asian Railroad is unloading almost double the vegetables and fruit planned. The Northern Caucasus Railroad is overfulfilling its goals. Shipments from Azerbaijan have increased. The first cars of vegetables and fruit have set off from Moldavia. They will reach their destination on schedule. We would hope that all who are on the executive staff of USSR MPS will be able to coordinate their operations. Then the stores of the capital and of other cities will have a good selection of various fruit and vegetable products.

Melons Headed for Moscow

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Jul 87 p 1

[Article: "First Batch of Melons and Watermelons Sent to the Capital"]

[Text] Yesterday the first batch of melons and watermelons were sent to Moscow from the gardens of Ashkhabad Oblast. The Vakharman and Gulyabi varieties, which grow in Karakum, are recognized for their gentle fragrance and juiciness. In order to assure total preservation of the melon crop along the way a significant portion of the crop is being sent in wooden crates loaded into refrigerator cars.

8228
1824/348

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN, DISTRIBUTION FROM AZERBAIJAN

Vegetable Conveyor in Operation

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jun 87 p 1

[Article by L. Tairov, Azerbaijan SSR: "Family Garden Beds: Harvest-87--From Fields to Store Counters"]

[Text] The truth is not a new one: the real farmer does not seek justification for failures but learns a lesson from his mistakes. The current prolonged spring delayed the development of vegetable crops in Azerbaijan by almost half a month. Nevertheless, concerned care for crops has encouraged the development of a good harvest in many enterprises. Northern rayons as well as southern have begun harvesting vegetable products. The largest--Khachmasskiy Rayon--has already sent off several special trains of fresh cabbage to Moscow Oblast, Bryansk, Murmansk...

In Sovkhoz imeni Dzhaparidze the snow-white crops dressed in a green necklace belonging to the brigade of A. Soltanov are impressive. The heads of cabbage are large and substantial.

"We are trying to put a maximal load on our equipment and to ease people's labor," says the brigade leader. "We plan to harvest no fewer than 300 quintals of products per hectare this year."

A large consumer of vegetables in the republic is Baku. In local stores and stalls one can see cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers and cherry-plums, but it is impossible to buy greens, strawberries and cherries...This is why many Baku residents hurry to market early in the morning. We talked to one of the buyers.

"Why are we attracted to the market?" she says. "Just look at the shelves--bunch next to bunch of vegetables. Do stores have this quantity of produce? And what about the assortment? In general it is possible to select whatever you want. Although the prices, of course..."

The remark is justified. It is true that stores begin to really compete with the market only in mid-summer when mass harvesting of vegetables and fruit is underway. Couldn't this type of competition exist on a year-round basis?

Unfortunately, in the republic's Gosagroprom [State Agroindustrial Committee] there is still no clear program in relation to this. Here there is greater concern for "getting out" the gross output and for fulfilling the procurement plan as a whole. Judge for yourselves. Of the 660,000 tons of vegetables which are to be procured in enterprises, vegetable crops make up a modest quantity. Directors of agro-industrial associations and specialists spread their hands in a gesture of helplessness, saying that it is not easy to raise radishes, cabbage, dill, onions, coriander, tarragon, mint, and parsley--too much trouble. Does this mean that this is a vicious circle?

Meanwhile, there is a solution. It was suggested by the enterprises of Apsheronskiy Rayon. Improvements in vegetable farming are directly related here to the overall introduction of family contracts. For example, A. Buriyev's brigade, consisting of himself, his father and three brothers, supplied almost 100 tons of vegetables last year. In making agreements with the administrations of enterprises, family brigades discuss area, productivity, gross yield, product quality and mutual accounts. There are almost 200 such collectives in the rayon already. In order not to tear vegetable farmers from their garden beds small links have been created to help them to sort and package produce and to send it to reception points and markets. Here is the result--dry Apsheron last year sold the state over 10,000 tons of vegetables, almost one-fourth more than the plan. Today this figure will grow to 15,000 tons. Nevertheless, reserves are not exhausted by doing this; the slat must be brought up a notch. Recently the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers decided to accelerate the development of vegetable farming on private plots and in collective gardens.

The vegetable conveyor is gathering strength. More and more produce is being unloaded in the country's cities and industrial centers. Special attention is being given to its quality. Many enterprises and rayons have organized direct ties with procurers in order to avoid losses and to alleviate shipment impasses. We would like to believe that the republic's vegetable farmers will deal successfully with the tasks they have been assigned.

Efficient Work

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 12 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by TASS reporter for SELSKAYA ZHIZN, Azerbaijan SSR: "The Price of a Worker's Minute"]

[Text] Agricultural workers are carrying out field work under varying weather conditions. The bad weather that has developed in some places can only be countered with a well-organized, precise work pace. It is with this type of approach to the situation that leading workers are able to find the opportunities for successful work.

The arithmetic of care is simple--the result of lost time is underproduction. This truth was well assimilated by the brigade of Khatail Ibadov of Sovkhoz imeni Nizami of Lenkoranskiy Rayon, Azerbaijan. Vegetable farmers are

organizing their work in such a way as to not lose a single minute of work. Today, when harvesting operations are just beginning to pick up the pace in the republic's enterprises, the brigade has already fulfilled obligations for the anniversary year--the state has been sold over 2,000 tons of vegetable products.

Under conditions in which the brigade's work is evaluated according to end results it is especially important that the vegetable conveyor operate without interruption. The inclusion of two drivers in the brigade helped to solve this problem. The machines assigned to the brigade have not stood idle a single minute since the beginning of harvest operations. No less interested in the fate of the future harvest than vegetable farmers themselves, drivers have calcuated the optimal routes from fields to reception points and the time needed for one trip. They save about 10 minutes on each trip. Since the start of harvesting operations the savings in time has equalled an entire half day, which has enabled workers to transport about 20 additional tons of vegetable products.

"Our driver's wages are almost double what they were before," says brigade leader Kh. Ibadov. "This is why they do not even think about 'illegal' runs which last year brought considerable losses."

Unfortunately, the minutes and hours saved by brigade transports en route are often lost at the reception points of trade and processing enterprises. RAPO [Rayon Agro-Industrial Association] partners are not reall, interested in the final results of work of vegetable farmers, and this has a negative effect on the quality of products received by the consumer. Evidently the time has come to more closely join the efforts of farmers with workers of trade and the canning industry and to tranfer their work to the same order.

Interruptions in Vegetable Conveyor

Moscow GUDOK in Russian 14 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by V. Dimitrov, Baku: "Railroad Cars in Reserve"]

[Text] In contrast to previous years, this year the vegetable conveyor on the Azerbaijan Railroad is operating with interruptions. A drawn-out spring has confused the plans of farmers. Although previous years also did not spoil field workers, the fertile soil gladdened them with abundant harvests, which cannot be said for the current season.

The May plan for shipping early cabbage to the country's industrial centers was not fulfilled by freight dispatchers by 2,269 railroad cars. It is true that the goal for June was overfulfilled, but in general consumers received 1,200 fewer railroad cars of cabbage from Azerbaijan than intended. Although cabbage shipments continue, this work consists of just a few cars a day. Thus there is no longer any point in counting on the plan.

How did railroad workers measure up in this situation? They had no problems in supplying freight dispatchers with empty railway cars. They easily

fulfilled orders for refrigerator cars. By the beginning of the season 4,000 had been gathered on the main line.

Although it was necessary to collect sections from several stations during the creation of through goods-trains, the railroad collective dealt successfully with this task. Ninety-seven percent of the cabbage left the tracks on block trains.

During late June the shipment of tomatoes began. Within a few days 1,250 cars, or 280 more than called for in the June plan, were sent to Moscow, Leningrad and other cities in the country. This would seem to be very good, but here we need to make a clarification--about one-fourth of the dispatched cars belonged to the republic's gosagroprom. The overfulfillment described above was achieved by means of the dispatching of tomatoes by organizations of consumers' cooperatives, for which there is no plan in terms of the number of empty cars required--they receive covered cars without a pause, without delay, upon presentation of the freight. If these organizations did not exist things would be difficult for railroad workers.

The situation involving the shipment of tomatoes on through trains is very bad. Produce is loaded at over 20 stations of the railroad line, and the destination addresses are not coordinated by dispatchers. So trains leave with cars of tomatoes bound for Bataysk, Astrakhan, Makhachkala...Here railroad workers should suggest that a common solution be thought about regarding the organization of shipments so as not to create extra work involving the movement of trains.

But they remain silent. They are also quiet about the fact that tomatoes are shipped only in covered cars. This means that many vegetables perish en route. On the other hand, refrigerator cars stand empty.

Already in May it became clear that the expected quantity of cabbage would not materialize. If this was so, then the necessity of a large number of refrigerator cars did not exist. Evidently these 2,000 cars were needed somewhere, but Azerbaijan railroad workers have been in no hurry to divest themselves of the burdensome reserve. The main administration of routing within MPS thinks everything is in order. It is as if no one sees the losses the state bears as a result of the unproductive idleness of expensive rolling stock.

Meanwhile directors of sections come to GUDOK's correspondence center, as in previous years, to express their perturbance about the mismanagement. They speak about the fact that the idleness results not only in material but in moral losses as well. Then why is it that thousands of cars are standing idle right now? Incidentally, we raised this question 2 years ago in an article entitled "Unneeded Reserves." Now everything is being repeated once again. Instead of supplying empty cars for shipments in a well-paced manner and on schedule, the railroad is storing the cars in order to avoid extra effort.

Pressure to Utilize Unsuitable Produce

Moscow GUDOK in Russian 30 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by A. Yudanov, Gorkiy: "Defective Products with an Honorary Escort"]

[Text] At Gorskiy-Moskovskaya Station trade workers were waiting with impatience for the arrival of five railroad cars of tomatoes from Azerbaijan. But 11 representatives of the Imishlinskoye Raypo [Rayon Consumers' Society] arrived at the Volga shore first via passenger train and airplane.

Railroad workers and workers of the local wholesale-retail association of the city fruit and vegetable trade association had seen a great many things. But even they could not understand why such an imposing delegation had come to the shores of the Volga. The explanation was quite simple. The representatives had decided to use pressure to force the workers of the third base at which the cars were to be unloaded to accept their poor-quality produce as standard quality!

"Are these tomatoes?!" shuddered the Gorkiy residents. "We wouldn't feed such rot to our livestock."

"We don't want to hear anything," countered the representatives of the Imishlinskoye Raypo. "Accept them as standard quality or we won't let you near the cars at all."

Their cunning was obvious. According to the existing situation the recipient is obliged to accept a shipment within 24 hours. Otherwise even obviously damaged products are charged to the recipient. This is what Azerbaijan's representatives were trying to do, delaying in every way possible and creating scenes near the cars. With great difficulty workers were able to unload the cars in order to determine the quality of the produce. Crates were removed at random. Half of the tomatoes in them turned out to be rotten. Raypo representatives found better crates and showed them to the commission:

"Here, see, these are the quality tomatoes! Accept them as standard or get out of here completely! Our directors have ordered us to deliver all our tomatoes as first or second class."

L. Pankratova, representative of the state inspectorate of the oblast agroprom [Agro-industrial association] was called. The couriers from Azerbaijan demanded from her that the recipients agree with their ultimatum.

I went to the base with L. Ananicheva, worker in the Gorkiy Division, and with my own eyes saw produce arriving in Gorkiy that was so unmarketable that there was mold around the crates.

Tomatoes could not have spoiled this much en route--they were delivered within a short period of time--in 6 days. Only one conclusion could be drawn--the goods were rotten when they were loaded in Imishli itself.

It was learned that relatives and friends accompanied the representatives from Imishli to Gorkiy with the single goal of creating a stir, a hullabaloo and confusion. The recipients were forced to turn for help to the state quality inspectorate and then to the police, to the editors of local newspapers and finally to GUDOK.

"No, the situation is not improving with Azerbaijan suppliers of fruit and vegetable products," sighs V. Bogatkin, director of the city fruit and vegetable trade association. "Both last year as well as this year they have sent simply rot...We have written letters, we have sent telegrams to the suppliers, we have turned to the republic's committee of people's control, but the situation is not changing for the better, as you can see."

8228
CSO: 1824/349

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION IN MOLDAVIA

Railroad Delays

Moscow GUDOK in Russian 7 Jul 87 p 1

[Article by M. Gorbis, Vulkaneshty--Radenskoye: "Hurrying Slowly"]

[Text] The Vulkaneshty base of Moldplodoovoshchprom [Moldavian Fruit and Vegetable Industry Association] ordered a railroad car for 3 June to ship early cabbage to Moscow. The management of the Moldavian Railroad accepted the order and at 8:23 the self-contained refrigerator car was delivered to Vulkaneshty Station. But loading did not begin here because workers were awaiting a mechanic from the Rini PTO [Technical service point]. He did not arrive until 10:00 A.M.

"Some time passed while the mechanic started the diesel, checked the suitability of the car and the working order of the equipment," says Z. Buzhalova, station guard. "Loading was only completed at lunch time."

"And was the cabbage sent out immediately, without delay?" I asked.

"No, of course not," said the station guard with surprise. "The car will not depart until midnight with the assembled train."

"When will it get to Moscow?"

Buzhalova shrugged her shoulders.

A similar picture is now being observed at Rogozheny Station. The only difference is that the refrigerator car was brought here from a neighboring station at 6:32 A.M., but the mechanic did not come from Beltsy Station to examine it until 10:30 A.M.

The loading of the cabbage was completed at 1:00 P.M. At 3:00 P.M. the car was sent to Gindeshty Station but there was a long wait there until it was sent further. It is not difficult to guess that with this kind of loading pace for early vegetables it is possible to lose not only quality but commercial appearance as well.

Despite the late spring in the south the very hot weather brought its own corrections in the views of the harvest. Today the republic must send almost 800,000 tons of fresh vegetables and fruit to the central part of the country. This is more than last year. The necessary rolling stock was prepared in surplus for this purpose. The job now is to load every car rapidly with high-quality produce and to send it to its destination. However, not everyone has prepared for this important work in the proper manner.

At the neighboring Odessa Railroad Radenskiy Agroprom ordered a refrigerated section for dispatching fresh cucumbers to Moscow. Despite the fact that at Radenskoye Station itself there were some old but repairable sections, the division decided to send a mechanized section here from Kherson. It arrived at the station on 30 June at 8:00 A.M. but loading was not completed until 8 P.M. because some of the cars were loaded from conveyances. An hour later the section was sent to Kherson and only the following day did it leave for its destination.

All of these cases attest to the fact that already today, when the shipment of early vegetables is just gaining momentum, we can see serious mistakes in the organization of shipments.

Air Shipments of Fruit

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 9 Aug 87 p 1

[TASS item, Kutuzov, Moldavian SSR, 8 Aug 87: "But the People Are Waiting...: Who is Hindering the Shipment of Fruit From Moldavia?"]

[Text] The mass harvesting of plums and peaches has begun in Moldavia. But during peak season for the delivery of fruit to the general union fund the procurers of Kutuzovskiy Rayon, which ships vitamin products to distant regions of the country by airplane, are forced to work at half their ability.

They wait for entire days on end for the help of aviators in order to rapidly deliver the rich harvest from Moldavian orchards to the north.

"Interruptions in the conveyor of shipments occurred at the fault of Aeroflot workers," says S. Atamanchuk, Director of the Kutozov Procurement-Marketing Enterprise. "For example, on the days when the shipment of perishable plums and peaches requires 10 planes daily, they provide 1-2, and these on an irregular basis. This year it is planned to ship over 4,200 tons of fruit using air transport."

Large-freight airplanes are also not supplied to procurers in a well-paced manner. For example, since the beginning of August of the seven planned IL-76 trips only three have been carried out. As a result, dozens of tons of procured perishable products had to be sent for processing because the schedule for the delivery of fruit into the general union fund is not being adhered to. In trying to justify the shortage of airplanes, pilots point to the sharp increase of fruit shipments to distant parts of the country in August. Actually, because of the caprices of weather at this time peaches,

plums, pears and apples ripened simultaneously in Moldavian orchards, and grapes are about to mature on plantations. But after all, the displacement of the period of maturation was no secret to either farmers or pilots, and they had ample time to reexamine their schedules for shipping the harvest. Now efficient measures are required to deliver products rapidly and without losses to those regions which, as the song goes, can be reached only by plane. The fact that people are awaiting the produce with impatience is attested to by numerous telegrams sent to the republic's gosagroprom [All-Union Agroindustrial Association]. People are asking for and demanding the acceleration of shipments of the desired fruit.

8228
CSO: 1824/350

LENINGRAD VEGETABLE GROWERS' CONFERENCE

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jul 87 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Reserves of Vegetable Farmers"]

[Text] A detailed discussion was held at the All-Union Seminar Conference, which was organized by the CPSU Central Committee and which occurred on 21-22 July in Leningrad, concerning the ways to radically restructure the work of the fruit and vegetable conveyor. Participating in this conference were the central committee secretaries of union republic communist parties, secretaries of party kraykoms and obkoms, directors of USSR Gosagroprom [All-Union Agro-Industrial Association], directors of agro-i ustrial committees of union and autonomous republics, oblasts and krays, directors of agricultural associations and sovkhozes, representatives of kolkhozes, and directors of scientific and planning institutions.

The speech of N. M. Zaychenko, Deputy Chairman of USSR Gosagroprom, and other speeches noted that branch workers are in great debt to the population. Interruptions have been observed in the supply of large industrial centers with fresh produce.

Conference participants also examined questions related to expanding the production of fruit and vegetables in subsidiaries of enterprises and private plots, to adherance to contractual deliveries, and to the utilization of opportunities given to enterprises to sell products on the market and through consumers' cooperatives.

Yu. F. Solov'yev, Candidate Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Leningrad CPSU Obkom, participated in the conference.

8228
CSO: 1824/350

BRIEFS

POTATO HARVESTING--O. dzhonikidze, 15 Jul 87 (TASS)--There has been a transition to industrial technology in the cultivation of potatoes in the enterprises of Northern Osetiya, which has begun the harvesting of early tubers. The first batch of products has been sent to the tables of residents of cities and workers' settlements. Farmers have cultivated a good harvest--specialized subdivision are harvesting up to 250 quintals per hectare. Many enterprises have built storage facilities not far from plantations. [Text] [Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Jul 87 p 1] 8228

LOCAL RECEPTION POINTS--Ordzhonikidze, 27 Jul 87 (TASS)--The season for mass processing of vegetables, fruit and berries from the new harvest has begun in canning enterprises of Northern Osetiya's agroprom [Agro-industrial association]. In order to accelerate the processing of raw materials and to decrease losses, enterprises together with kolkhozes and sovkhozes have organized a network of reception points directly in the place where the harvest is collected. [Text] [Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Jul 87 p 2] 8228

COMMENTARY ON HARVEST OPERATIONS--"The time for mass procurement of vegetables and fruit is approaching. But as in past years, the building, equipping and repair of storehouses is proceeding at a slow pace and with low quality work." (According to materials from investigations by NK [People's Control]. "There is an official index for the work of building organizations--the assimilation of resources allocated for the building of a structure. But resources can be 100 percent assimilated without the completion of the task..." (From a letter by reader Yu. Koshkina, Novgorod Oblast). "Here we have already assimilated all resources. Now we can move on to the next project." [Caption of a cartoon showing a dilapidated wooden shack called a "Vegetable Base"]. [Text] [Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Jul 87 p 2] 8228

CSO: 1824/350

REGIONAL FEED PRODUCTION EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSED

Moscow ZHIVOTNOVODSTVO in Russian No 6, Jun 87 pp 2-8

[Article by V. K. Onisovets, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and the Food Industry of the CPSU Central Committee: "Supplying Farms With High-Quality Feeds"]

[Text] This country's many-million strong army of livestock farmers is responding with shock labor to the party's call to accelerate all sections of the economy, to actively carry out the restructuring and rejuvination of all aspects of life, and to work creatively and with a complete return. Having joined in competition for a worthy greeting of the 70th anniversary of Great October, many kolkhoz and sovkhoz collectives are pledging to fulfill the goals for 2 years of the five-year plan by this date, and to give the country thousands of additional tons of meat, milk and other products.

The reality of this task is confirmed by the fact that within livestock raising the wintering of livestock has been completed successfully and that plan goals related to the procurement of farm products have been overfulfilled. State resources have been replenished by eleven percent more livestock and poultry, 7 percent more milk and 2 percent more eggs than during last year's wintering period. Average milk yield per cow has increased and the delivery condition of animals earmarked for meat purposes has improved.

While achieving a daily increase in milk yield, Belorussian livestock farmers were able to increase milk procurement by 18 percent during 4 months of 1987. Even greater increases in production were achieved by the collectives of the dairy farms of Tula, Kirov and a number of other oblasts. This attests to the great reserves within the branch which should be utilized fully in order to achieve a doubling of the pace of growth in livestock production output during the current five-year plan as indicated by the Food Program.

There is only one path here--the transition to intensive production methods in every enterprise and on every farm. Specialists and directors of enterprises and agro-industrial associations must deal with this problem in a comprehensive manner. They must constantly improve the organization and stimulation of labor and introduce cost accounting and collective contracts in conjunction with assimilating progressive production technologies. We must utilize the latest achievements of genetics and breeding as well as

biotechnology in order to rapidly improve the breeding and productive qualities of the herd, primarily by means of the widespread Holsteinization of the dairy herd and of the use of highly productive hog hybrids and poultry crossbreeds.

At the same time this year, as in general at the contemporary stage of development of livestock raising, growth in effectiveness of development of this branch is related first and foremost to a continued improvement in the level and full-value feeding of animals, i.e. to an increase in the production of various types of high-quality feeds.

During recent years extensive work has been completed in the country in the area of strengthening the feed base for livestock raising. Average annual production of all coarse and succulent feeds (excluding green feeds) translated into feed-unit terms increased by 19 percent during the 11th Five-Year Plan as compared to the 10th in all categories of enterprises.

From year to year more and more grain and other concentrated feeds are being allocated for the needs of public livestock raising. Average annual consumption of concentrated feeds has increased by 23 percent during the last three five-year plans, and the proportion of these feeds in the total ration reached 34.3 percent in 1985.

An improvement in the structure of utilized feeds, an increase in the proportion of hay, haylage and root crops in the rations of dairy cattle, and the utilization of full-ration mixed feeds in hog raising and poultry raising has enabled us in recent years to halt the growth in feed expenditures per quintal of milk and beef and to achieve somewhat of a curtailment of feed expenditures per unit of production in hog raising and poultry raising. Whereas in 1965 510 feed units were expended per 1,000 eggs, in 1985 the figure was 220; 990 and 530 feed units were expended respectively to achieve 1 quintal of growth in poultry; and 980 and 880 feed units respectively--in hogs.

At the same time it should be noted that the supplies of feed in livestock raising per standard head of cattle (level of feeding) are still growing slowly. During the 11th Five-Year Plan as compared to the 9th feed supplies per standard head of cattle increased by only 60 feed units in the public sector of enterprises and comprised 2,710, whereas in leading enterprises 4,500-5,000 feed units are allocated per standard head. In addition, there was practically no increase in supplies of protein for livestock raising. This was the basis, primarily, for the inadequate growth pace in the productivity of cattle and poultry; it hindered increased production output and the strengthening of the branch's economy.

Inadequate balance of rations as regards protein and other nutritional substances and mismanagement and work stoppages in feed shops still result in great overconsumption of feed resources in many enterprises. During recent years 155 feed units have been consumed for the production of 1 quintal of milk as compared with 110 in leading enterprises; for 1 quintal of growth in cattle--1,350 and of hogs--880 feed units, which is greater by a factor of almost 1.5 than in enterprises which have assimilated progressive technologies

for producing beef and pork. Improvements in the use of existing feed resources and a curtailment of expenditures per unit of production--today these are among the most important reserves for increasing the production of meat and dairy products, and they must be utilized fully in all enterprises and on all farms.

To further intensify the production of beef, pork, lamb and other products it will be necessary to systematically increase the production of grain forage. The Food Program calls for increasing gross grain yield to 250-255 million tons by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan, i.e. an increase of 40-45 million tons over the levels achieved in 1986. The demand for grain forage is still growing more rapidly than supply.

At the same time it would be a mistake to orient ourselves toward increasing the level of full-value feeding of livestock only by means of increasing the proportion of grain in rations. An expansion of crops and improvement in productivity of many grasses and silage crops, and the availability of extensive pasture lands in many parts of the country create real possibilities for increasing the procurement of coarse and succulent feeds. It is also essential to fully utilize byproducts of agricultural production as feed for livestock--straw, chaff, sunflower calathides, haulm of root crops, beet pulp and other waste products of the food industry and from enterprises of public nutrition. This will enable us to produce many types of agricultural products with a minimal expenditure of concentrated feeds.

In organizing the raising and fattening of cattle, including in industrial-type complexes, we must plan for the maximal use of coarse and succulent feeds in rations. Most of the wool and lamb should continue to be produced on the basis of the effective utilization of pasture feeds.

Unfortunately, some directors of enterprises did not demonstrate the necessary concern for increasing the production of good hay, haylage, silage and root crops over a long period of time, and they tried to make up for the feed shortage with concentrates, often at the expense of grain from state resources. Now the situation is changing. Following the example of leading kolkhozes and sovkhozes in practically all rayons comprehensive programs for the development of field and meadow feed production have been worked out, and each enterprise is to procure 1.5-2 tons of hay and the same quantity of haylage per cow, 6-7 tons of silage with a content of dry substance of no less than 30 percent, and 1 ton of feed root crops per ton of milk.

The comprehensive programs for the development of feed production in many oblasts call for increasing feed output per hectare in feed crops to 4,000-4,500 feed units. In order to achieve this kind of productivity on arable land in feed crops it is necessary to raise the level of agrotechnology and to introduce intensive technology for cultivating feed crops and hay grass, to define the selection by type of these crops within the various zones of the country more accurately on the basis of an economic evaluation, and to select the most productive varieties. Moreover, in feed production it is essential to raise the level of mechanization of all operations and to widely introduce the achievements of chemicalization and biotechnology with the aim of

increasing productivity and a nigh level of preservation of feed's nutritional value. Feed production must become specialized in all enterprises.

It is important not to waste time in order to considerably increase production and raise the quality of coarse and succulent feeds this year. Specialists are obliged to make a careful economic evaluation of feed crops with a consideration of their productivity, essential expenditures of manpower and resources for producing a quintal of nutritive substances and digestible protein, and to achieve the effective use of lands. A great deal is being done in this direction. Thus, during recent years the enterprises of Kazaknstan, Siberia, the RSFSR Non-Chernozem Zone, Belorussian and the Baltic republics have replaced some of their unproductive annual grasses with grain forage crops which provide a greater yield of feed per unit area. These crops are harvested during the stage of milky-wax and waxy ripeness of the grain in order to prepare grain haylage or, as it is called, "monofeed."

The high level of effectiveness of grain haylage has been confirmed by the experience of many enterprises in various zones of the country. For example, in Nazarovskiy Sovkhoz of Krasnoyarsk Kray for 20 years this type of feed has been the basis for rations for the dairy herd and for calves being raised and fattened. Full-value feeding of livestock in conjunction with measures to improve technology and breeding work have enabled the collective of this enterprise to increase the productivity of cows by 1,000 kilograms just in the last 4 years. In 1986 each cow here produced 4,400 kilograms of milk and the profitability of milk production comprised 147 percent. The delivery weight of a single calf exceeds 500 kilograms with expenditures of 800-900 feed units per quintal of weight gain.

Many other enterprises of Siberia and Kazakhstan have successfully assimilated the technology for producing monofeeds in recent years. In Kokchetav, Kustanay, Tselinograd and several other oblasts workers have now begun to procure hundreds of thousands of tons of haylage from grain-forage crops in the stages of milky-wax and waxy ripeness sown on feed lands, which enabled farmers to considerably improve all indices relating to farm work in literally 1-2 years.

In the southern oblasts of the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Moldavia, the Transcaucasus and the Central Asian republics mixtures of grain forage crops for haylage and corn for silage, with cobs in the milky-wax stage of ripeness, can be grown successfully as repeat and afterharvest crops.

The practical experience of many leading enterprises shows that in any region of the country there are great possibilities for intensifying and increasing the effectiveness of feed production. For example, Ploskovskiy Sovkhoz of Brovarskiy Rayon, Kiev Oblast, which is located on poor sandy loam soil, strengthened the feed base of livestock raising considerably as a result of its constant concern for increasing the fertility of the soil and for developing feed production. In recent years the average productivity of grain crops has surpassed 40 quintals per hectare, of corn green mass--500, of cereal-legume grasses--700, and of feed root crops--1,400 quintals. Feed output per hectare of feed crops comprises 6,500-7,000 feed units.

At the foundation of the success of this enterprise is the efficient coordination of farming and livestock raising. The high density of cattle (over 110 standard head per 100 hectares of agricultural lands) enables us to apply a great deal of organic fertilizer to the fields--60-80 tons per hectare of arable land, to produce large yields and to fully meet the needs of livestock raising for high-quality feeds. In turn, full-value feeding of animals in conjunction with well-organized breeding work provide the foundation for achieving a high level of productivity of these animals and steadfast growth in farm production. Average milk yield per cow here has surpassed 6,000 kilograms, and on the basis of 100 hectares of agricultural lands its production has reached almost 3,000 quintals.

The effectiveness of utilizing feed lands is increasing significantly in places where intensive technologies are being utilized to cultivate feed crops in conjunction with progressive forms of labor organization and stimulation--collective and family contracts and cost accounting with a check system to control expenditures.

The independent link of machine operator and Hero of Socialist Labor Ye. A. Yakovlev achieved a doubling in the yield of grains and feed crops in the course of 1-2 years first in the experimental enterprise of VNII [All-Union Scientific Research Institute] for Flax and then in Mir Kolkhoz of Torzhokskiy Rayon, Kalinin Oblast.

Two years ago Comrade Yakovlev was elected chairman of a lagging kolkhoz, Put K Kommunizmu. He introduced his experience in this enterprise on a broad scale and here was the result: the productivity of grain crops increased from 13 to 18 quintals, of potatoes--from 55 to 178, and of flax fiber--from 4.6 to 7.4 quintals. Farms received sufficient feed supplies, which enabled them to increase milk yield per cow by 900 kilograms in 1 year. And all of this was accomplished without the use any supplementary investments.

In 1986 the principle of collective contracts was adopted by almost 90,000 feed procurement subdivisions, and this year this number is increasing considerably. As a rule, these collectives utilize technology and land better and achieve great effectiveness in labor.

So-called start-to-finish contracts are especially effective. In this case wages for feed procurers, livestock farmers and directors and specialists of enterprises are directly related to the quality and quantity of products sold to the state. In Stavropol's Kolos Kolkhoz, for example, this form of stimulation sharply improved indices in dairy farming and sheep raising. Farmers became active participants in the development of these branches and livestock farmers also became involved in the development of a forage base for farms.

The modern economic mechanism in effect in the village enables us to disseminate collective contracts and cost accounting principles in feed production everywhere. However, despite the regular advantages of this form of organization and reimbursement of labor, it is still being introduced slowly or formally. Practical experience shows that stoppages in the forage conveyor occur most often in places where there is no concern for the

utilization of progressive innovations, where intensive technologies are consigned to oblivion and where the rights of labor collectives are limited. This should be taken into consideration in particular by the workers of agroproms [agro-industrial associations] and specialists of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the Turkmen SSR, Dagestan, and Pskov, Ryazan, Novosibirsk, Ural and several other oblasts where during the past year numerous disorders were tolerated in feed procurement and where many farms began the wintering period with extremely small forage reserves, as a result of which the necessary growth in the livestock production output is not achieved.

Great harm is brought by the lack of desire on the part of specialists and directors of enterprises to adhere to optimal schedules for harvesting grasses and other feed crops and by the excessive prolongation of haylage harvesting and of preparing haylage and silage from the feed mass. In 1986 a significant portion of kolkhozes and sovkhozes was 10-15 days late with the mowing of grasses, and operations lasted 35-40 days instead of 10-12 days. The harvesting of other feed crops took longer than indicated by a factor of 1.5-2.

The consequences of beginning haying behind schedule can be seen in the results of experiments by the VNII of Feeds. One kilogram of dry substance of cereal grasses contained 0.94 feed units and 104 grams of digestible protein during the ear formation period, but only 0.62 feed units and 56 grams of protein during the blooming period. Thus, the value of feeds dropped by one-third in general nutritive value and almost by half in protein in only 7-10 days. It is impossible to make up for these losses by increasing the feed mass, as some directors of enterprises hope to do as they orient themselves toward obsolete views and traditions--let's let the grass grow a little taller, they say, and there will be more feed. In the experiment presented above the yield of dry substance per hectare when productivity is high and grasses are cut frequently during the blooming period increased from 104 to 119 quintals, or by 14 percent, as compared to harvesting during the phase of beginning ear formation, but total yield of nutritive substance was curtailed from 98 to 74 quintals, or by 24 percent, and protein--from 10.3 to 6.7 quintals, or by 35 percent.

It is the task of specialists to carry out extensive educational work in feed-production brigades and links so that all workers know that lateness in beginning of mowing of grasses and prolongation of haying result not only in a decrease in quality of feeds but also in losses of at least one cutting of grasses. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes can produce 12-15 million tons of hay from each additional cutting.

We must also note the following fact. Whereas perennial grasses are cut behind schedule by enterprises, corn for silage is usually harvested ahead of time, which also results in underproduction and a decrease in feed quality. According to data from agrochemical laboratories, in the country on the average during the past 5 years the moisture content in silage equalled 75.5 percent and the nutritive value of 1 kilogram--0.18 feed units, whereas silage should be stockpiled with a moisture content of no more than 65 percent so that the nutritive value of 1 kilogram of silage reaches 0.25 feed units and more.

According to data from the VNII of Feeds, the yield of corn silage mass from the very same field is 370 quintals per hectare when green mass is harvested during the period of beginning grain formation as compared to 401 quintals during the period of milky-wax ripeness, an increase of 8 percent; at the same time output of ready silage increases from 274 to 362 quintals, or by 32 percent. The content of nutritive substance in the silage increases from 2,750 to 6,710 feed units, or by a factor of 2.4; of protein--from 3.6 to 7.7, or by a factor of 2.2. During the stockpiling of silage from corn during the milky-wax stage of ripeness the output of nutritive substances per hectare increased to 8,600 feed units, or by a factor of 3.1. Consequently, just by efficiently utilizing the harvest that has already been cultivated specialists of enterprises and agro-industrial associations can achieve significant growth in the reserves of high-quality feeds.

We cannot forget the fact that with premature silaging of corn with an elevated moisture content almost all the sugar contained in the corn is hydrolized into organic acids, and up to 15-20 percent of the potassium and phosphorus and 40 percent of the magnesium leaves the corn with the juices and the corn becomes sour and non-nutritive. As a result during the winter period farms underproduce and the indices for herd reproduction and preservation of calves fall. Tnis should not be tolerated.

Many shortcomings are tolerated in the preparation of haylage. They are manifest first and foremost in failure to adhere to requirements involving the drying, stockpiling and storage of the haylage mass. Some enterprises do not dry grasses to the optimal moisture content of 50-55 percent at all. In the enterprises of the Turkmen SSR, the Kabardino-Balkar ASSR, the Bashkir ASSR and Bryansk, Kuybyshev, Tyumen, Irkutsk, Amur and Khmelnitskiy oblasts the moisture content of so-called haylage has been 70 percent and more in recent years, and 1 kilogram of this type of feed contained from 0.14 to 0.22 feed units, i.e. this was not haylage but poor silage. In some places workers manage to stockpile green mass from leguminous grasses with a moisture content of over 75 percent for silage, although we know that feed that is suitable as animal feed should have a moisture content of no more than 55 percent. Livestock farmers have accurately termed this type of haylage as "rotage." However, unfortunately there has not been a real battle against this type of mismanagement, or rather slovenliness, among individual workers in feed production, and this work must be done persistently. High quality in procured feed must be achieved everywhere.

Improving the quality and nutritive value of coarse and succulent feeds--today this is one of the primary tasks of every specialist, economic manager and every worker in feed production. It is most closely tied to solving another important problem--decreasing the expenditure of grain for forage purposes, for it is precisely because of the low quality of hay, haylage and silage that a great overexpenditure of feeds and grain forage per unit of livestock production is tolerated.

Considerable data from scientific studies and practical experiments in enterprises attests to the influence of the quality of coarse and succulent feeds on expenditures of grain forage and on the productivity of animals. For

example, in the GDR [German Democratic Republic] when cows are fed haylage of the first, second and fourth classes with the addition of 3 kilograms of concentrated feeds, average daily milk yield comprised 15.4, 8.7 and 4.2 kilograms respectively by groups.

In the enterprise of the Don NPO [Scientific Production Organization], which produced first-class hay, cows produced 13.4 kilograms of milk daily with an expenditure of 220 grams of concentrates per kilogram of production, whereas in the group that received third-class hay 375 grams of concentrated feeds were required per kilogram of milk to achieve this type of output.

The correct path toward improving quality and increasing the nutritive value of feeds is the extensive introduction of progressive technology for procurement, storage and use of these feeds. The most effective method for preserving nutritive substance in green mass is artificial dehydration of grasses, the preparation of grass meal and grass cutting. During this five-year plan the procurement of this valuable feed should increase to 10 million tons, which will enable us to obtain up to 1 million tons of digestible protein and to balance the vitamin composition of rations better. Here emphasis will be placed on increasing the production of grass cuttings, which decreases the expenditure of fuel by almost half and which increases the productivity of drying units.

Feed quality improves with the pressing and final drying of hay using the method of active ventilation, as well as when haylage and silage are stockpiled with the use of chemical and biological preservatives. Whereas with chemical preservation of freshly-cut grasses 87 percent of nutritive substances are preserved in ready feed and with the drying of hay using the method of active ventilation--68 percent, with field drying of grasses only 47 percent is retained. In addition, with field drying there is a loss of up to 44 percent of protein, whereas with final drying using active ventilation in storehouses the figure is only 16-25 percent.

The hay mowing season is short-lived and success in completing it depends on the skillful organization of operations and on the productive utilization of feed-harvesting equipment and manpower. It is very important to prepare every machine and every unit in a timely manner in order to obtain the maximal return from them. In order to complete the harvesting of grasses on awkward sites it is essential to mobilize all resources, including existing horse-drawn mowers, and to organize manual mowing and stacking of grasses.

Feed quality depends to a large extent on the availability of feed storehouses in enterprises. For example, in special sheds losses of dry substance during storage of pressed hay with a standard moisture content equal about 1 percent, of loose hay--3.5 percent, and in ricks--6 and 12 percent respectively.

In recent years in kolkhozes and sovkhozes considerable work has been done to develop a storage base for feeds. By early 1987 there were 398 million cubic meters of storage capacity for silage and haylage, and last year alone 16.6 million cubic meters were introduced. Many enterprises have begun extensive building of special storage facilities for hay. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Belorussia and the Baltic republics have almost fully satisfied their

demand for hay storage facilities. The building of hay storage facilities capable of active drying of feeds is being carried out actively in Moscow, Leningrad, Dnepropetrovsk, Kiev, Rovno and many otner oblasts.

At the same time even with the small availability of feed storehouses the plans for building such facilities are not fulfilled year after year in Moldavia, Tajikistan, Altay Kray, Kurgan, Chita and a number of other oblasts. Agro-industrial committees and associations are obliged to strengthen demandingness toward the directors of enterprises as concerns the creation of a storage base for feeds. It is also essential to expand the facilities for grain forage, grass meal and pellet and granule feeds. In enterprises where there is a shortage of storehouses we should install simple awnings, and we should utilize plastics more widely to cover hay, haylage and silage in order to decrease feed losses to a minimum during storage.

The strengthening of the feed base and on this basis an increase in the level and full value of feeding animals is dirrectly related to improvements in the balance of rations as concerns protein and other nutritional elements. Protein supplies for the herd are inadequate. At the present time there is an average of only 96 grams of digestible protein per feed unit in feeds, which results in a small return on feed in terms of livestock products as well as in a significant overexpenditure of feed and especially grain. The fact is that the basic deficit in feed protein arises because of its inadequate content in concentrated feeds, in which there are 100-102 grams of protein per feed unit. When grain forage is utilized in hog raising 110-115 grams of protein are required per feed unit, and in poultry raising--130-135 grams.

Because of the shortage of protein raw material a significant portion of the mixed feed and protein-vitamin supplements remain low in quality. When preparing BVD [Protein-vitamin supplements], for example, only 20 percent protein is included as compared to the GOST standard of 30 percent. In kolkhozes and sovkhozes over half of the forage grain is fed to livestock without the addition of raw protein.

Taking into consideration the fact that the primary shortage of feed protein is related to the shortage of vegetable protein, USSR Gosagroprom [State Agro-Industrial Association] and VASKhNIL [All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin], with the extensive inclusion of scientists and specialists, have worked out and confirmed a special program for increasing its production in farming during the 12th Five-Year Plan. This program determines the basic directions and tasks for the extensive expansion of cultivation of high-protein crops in every kolkhoz and sovkhoz for the purpose of achieving complete satisfaction of demand for vegetable protein by livestock raising by the year 1990.

With this goal in mind measures are being taken to expand the area in and increase the productivity of legumes and oil-bearing crops, especially peas, sunflowers, soybeans, rape, lupine as well as alfalfa, clover and other leguminous grasses. The production of high-protein crops is being placed on an intensive basis. It is being transferred primarily to reclaimed lands with the utilization of the complete norm of fertilizer, highly productive varieties, industrial methods of agrotechnology and progressive forms of

organizing and stimulating labor. For example, during the current five-year plan the sowing area in leguminous crops is to be increased by 67 percent, and the average annual productivity of these crops as compared to the past five-year plan is to increase by a factor of 2-3. The proportion of leguminous crops in crop rotations will increase to 8-10 percent, and in highly specialized enterprises--to 12-14 percent.

For many parts of the country, especially in the Ukraine, Moldavia, the central chernozem oblasts, the Transvolga and the Northern Caucasus sunflowers are the traditional high-protein crop. However, in recent years many enterprises have begun to produce extremely low yields, and in some places there has been a total loss of interest in cultivating this crop and the sowing area and gross seed yield of sunflowers has been curtailed. Today many impediments have been eliminated. The return of oil cakes and oilseed meal to enterprises has increased. The recently-passed resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers, "On Urgent Measures to Increase the Production of Oil-Bearing Seed and Vegetable Oil," has significantly increased procurement prices for oil-bearing seed. It is also important that breeders have developed new highly productive varieties and hybrids, the cultivation of which according to intensive technologies enables us to produce 20-25 quintals and more seed per hectare. All of this opens up new possibilities for expanding the production of sunflowers, especially for feed purposes, in those regions where this is a commercial crop.

Soybeans are becoming more and more important for the solution of the feed protein problem. In the southern oblasts of Kazakhstan, in Moldavia, in the southern RSFSR and the Uraine, in the transcaucasus and in the republics of Central Asia many enterprises have assimilated the intensive technology for cultivating this crop on irrigated land and produce large yields.

Ukraina Kolkhoz and Kolkhoz imeni Tatarbunarskoye Vosstaniye in Odessa Oblast, Kolkhoz imeni Lenin of Kakhovskiy Rayon, Kherson Oblast, and Rossiya and Druzhba Narodov kolkhozes of Crimea Oblast have many years of experience in raising soybeans and produce 18-25 and even over 30 quintals of soybeans per hectare on large areas.

Under the conditions of Semipalatinsk's Irtysh region the family link of V. Pershin of Krasnyy Dozor Kolkhoz in Urdzharskiy Rayon, having studied the experience of soybean farmers of Kolkhoz imeni Krupskaya of Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, produced an average of 22 quintals of soybeans per hectare during their first year of operation, and on an area of 45 hectares this index was equal to 27.5 quintals.

The practical experience of leading soybean farmers in Kazakhstan convincingly proves that the republic can and must become a large soybean-producing region and that it must not only eliminate its shortage of feed protein, which now reaches 500,000 tons, but supply raw protein to other parts of the country as well. For this purpose Gosagroprom [All-Union Agro-Industrial Association] and the republic's scientific institutions must first of all train cadres and achieve the practical assimilation of intensive technologies for cultivating soybeans everywhere where they are sown in the best enterprises of Soya NPO. No less important is the organization as quickly as possible of the breeding

and production of promising high-yield soybean seed with a short vegetative period and an increase in the level of mechanization of soybean cultivation. The scientific institutions of the Eastern Division of VASKhNIL are called upon to strengthen research and development in biotechnology, physiology, chemistry, biochemistry and the technology for processing soybeans. This kind of comprehensive approach will encourage the nighly efficient and profitable cultivation of this valuable crop.

In a large part of the country feed protein resources can be replenished to a considerable degree with the use of rape. In Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast, for example, winter rape has been cultivated for many years on an area of 4,000-5,000 hectares with a yield of 16-20 quintals of seed per hectare, and the leading enterprises produce over 40 quintals during some years. Similar possibilities exist in Lvov, Rovno, Cherkassy and other oblasts of the republic, but very few enterprises have begun to cultivate rape. The same can be said of Belorussia and the Baltic republics, where this valuable crop is being assimilated fairly timidly and the orientation is towards imported raw protein.

We should especially emphasize the necessity for more accelerated development of spring rape production. It is cultivated effectively in general in a number of enterprises, beginning with the Don and Volga and reaching to the Urals, Siberia and Kazakhstan. In Lipetsk Oblast for several years now up to 14,000 hectares of spring rape have been harvested for seed and an average of up to 18 quintals of seed have been produced per hectare. In the enterprises of Lipetskiy Rayon the productivity of rape on an area of 4,600 hectares equalled 18.6 quintals. The use of rape oil cakes for livestock feed has enabled us to increase the average yield per cow by 1,215 kilograms during the last 5 years. State milk procurement during this period increased by 64 percent, and meat procurement--by 42 percent. However, the experience of the best enterprises is being disseminated very slowly. Only individual kolkhozes and sovkhozes are involved in the cultivation of spring rape in Voronezh, Tambov, Moscow, Chelyabinsk, Omsk, Kustanay and other oblasts.

Why is it that in some enterprises good yields of oil-bearing crops are achieved and the demand for feed protein is fully satisfied whereas other enterprises are slow to deal with this important problem? An analysis shows that some specialists and economic directors allow things to proceed on their own instead of truly assimilating the technology for cultivating these crops and of training cadres. As a result, because of failure to adhere to the demands of agrotechnology, of a non-observance of agrotechnical requirements and of a contemptuous attitude toward individual elements of technology insignificant yields are achieved during the first year and then arguments are sought in support of the unpromising nature of a particular crop. This kind of situation cannot be tolerated. Agroprom organs, together with party organizations, must literally open up the path for progressive technologies of cultivating peas, sunflowers, rape, soybeans and other high-protein crops on the basis of the results of scientific research and the experience of leading collectives, and to put solving the problem of feed protein at the top of the list of all feed production work.

In implementing the program to increase the production of feed protein it is important not to waste time and already this year to achieve a considerable growth in protein resources. Agroprom organs and scientific institutions are called upon to assist kolkhozes in every way possible in order to achieve the planned growth in productivity of leguminous and oil-bearing crops and perennial grasses in enterprises.

In order to replenish resources of feed protein measures are also being implemented to increase the production of feed yeasts and amino acids in enterprises of USSR Minmedbioprom [Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry], feed fish and meat-bone meal, dry skimmed milk, whole milk substitutes and other supplements.

Extensive and still underutilized reserves for strengthening the feed base of livestock raising include improving and organizing natural haylands and pastures. Kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises utilize about 33 million hectares of haylands and over 290 million hectares of pastures. Haylands and pastures make up 59 percent of agricultural lands, but most of them are located in zones with unfavorable weather conditions. Almost half of all natural feed lands (over 155 million hectares) are located in Kazakhstan, about 20 percent--in the republics of Central Asia. These are primarily desert and semi-desert lands with an extremely sparse feed density. For this reason the productivity of natural feed lands is still small. The proportion of pasture feeds, for example, within the total volume of feed resources utilized in livestock raising is very low and is being systematically curtailed. Whereas in 1965 the proportion of these feeds equalled 23.8 percent, in 1985 the figure was only 13.6 percent. In the republics of the Transcaucasus 8-12 percent of the area is in these feeds, in the RSFSR--13 percent and in the Ukraine--only about 4 percent.

On the average 1 hectare of natural haylands and pastures yields only 6-6.5 quintals of hay. At the same time in 1965 on such lands after radical cultivation the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Georgia harvested 22 quintals of hay, in the Ukraine--23.6, in Belorussia--32.2, in Lithuania--38.1, in Estonia--38.3, and in Azerbaijan--59.2 quintals. Even in the semi-desert feed lands of Kazakhstan and the republics of Central Asia simple fencing in of pastures, the additional sowing of grasses and semi-shrubs and top-dressing with fertilizers helps us to increase the output of feed mass per unit area by several times. This attests to the fact that the bringing to order of meadows and pastures can provide a solid addition to feed resources in all regions of the country.

During the current five-year plan it is planned to significantly expand the volume of work involved in radical and surface amelioration of haylands and pastures. Radical amelioration is to be carried out on an area of 15 million hectares in order to increase the area in haylands and pastures to about 36 million hectares by 1990, to create about 1 million hectares of irrigated haylands additionally, to improve the area of liman irrigation, to put 2.5 million hectares into cultivated pastures and to increase their total area to 4.7 million hectares, and to carry out surface amelioration of meadows on 42 million hectares, particularly on floodplains and in mountainous regions. Phytoreclamation of desert and semi-desert pastures will be carried out on 7-8

million hectares. In 1987 it is essential to carry out work involving radical amelioration of haylands and pastures on an area of over 3 million hectares, to flood 2.75 million hectares of pastures, to remodel hydraulic engineering structures on previously-flooded lands on an area of 9.8 million hectares, and to carry out surface amelioration on 8.9 million hectares of haylands and pastures. In addition to land reclamation workers, all kolkhozes and sovkhozes having such lands are called upon to become actively involved in carrying out these operations.

The organization of seed farming of meadow-pasture as well as leguminous perennial grasses requires special care. Lags in the development of seed farming of grasses is one of the main reasons why the implementation of radical amelioration of natural feed lands is being hindered and why the effectiveness of reclamation work on meadows in a number of oblasts of the RSFSR's Non-Chernozem Zone as well as in Kazakhstan and other regions is inadequate. The experience of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Kirghiz SSR, and Gomel, Lvov, Volyn and Chernovitsy oblasts shows that seed farming involving meadow-pasture and leguminous perennial grasses can be successfully organized in any zone of the country if specialization of enterprises is instituted. In Volyn Oblast, for example, seed farming of perennial grasses is concentrated at the seed station and in 57 specialized enterprises. Here the seed of 16 varieties of grasses is produced. Immediately after threshing the seed is sent to the station for drying, cleaning, sorting and storage. As a result all of the oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhozes receive the necessary quantity of seed of leguminous and cereal perennial grasses in the needed assortment for sowing in fields with crop rotations and for sowing haylands and pastures using multiple grass mixtures. This experience should be taken into account in other regions as well. In places where enterprises are not yet specialized sufficient areas should be organized this year for grass seed plots, and the treatment and storage of seed directly in enterprises or in inter-farm specialized enterprises and mechanized seed-cleaning complexes should be organized, as is done in Latvia.

The practical experience of many leading enterprises attests convincingly to the fact that in addition to measures to increase the production of various types of feeds it is essential to demonstrate constant concern about increasing the effectiveness of their use. This refers first and foremost to grain forage and other concentrated feeds and to its reprocessing into full-value mixed feeds.

We know that mixed feeds that are balanced in the basic nutritive substances and enriched with vitamins, antibiotics, microelements and other supplements are 25-30 percent more effective that regular grain feeds. In other words, by utilizing all forage grain in the form of mixed feeds we can obtain almost one-third more animal products than if we fed the same grain in unbalanced form. According to data from the All-Union Institute of Livestock Raising, 1 quintal of full-value mixed feed as compared to the same quantity of grain mixture enables us to produce an additional 25-30 kilograms of milk, 3-4 kilograms of meat and 75-95 eggs. By utilizing particular ingredients or a particular recipe for mixed feed it is possible to achieve the effective utilization of feed resources and uniform year-round livestock production output. At the same time due to the shortage of capacities for the processing

of forage grain and raw protein only slightly more than half of available resources are processed into mixed feeds.

During the 12th Five-Year Plan extensive measures have been planned for the continued development of the mixed feed industry; existing enterprises are being expanded and remodeled and dozens of new enterprises are being built. The technology for the production of mixed feeds, protein-vitamin supplements and premixes is being perfected on the basis of overall mechanization and automation of all production processes. It is also important that supplying the mixed feed industry with ingredients, including raw protein, is now assigned to the councils of ministers of union republics, which increases the interest and responsibility of local organs for the organization of production of full-value mixed feeds.

Under the new conditions, council and economic organs of many republics and oblasts have begun to more actively include local reserves and to utilize opportunities for expanding the production of balanced mixed feeds and protein-vitamin supplements. Good experience has been amassed in Belgorod Oblast, where on an inter-enterprise basis a whole series of enterprises and shops were created to produce feed yeasts, dry animal feeds, and whole milk substitutes; in many rayons the production of protein vitamin supplements with a protein content of 300-360 grams per kilogram as well as all necessary vitamin and mineral supplements has been assimilated.

The shortage of nutritional substance in the rations of agricultural animals can to a large degree be replaced by wastes from the fruit and vegetable and canning industries (apples, squash, cabbage, carrots, tomatoes). The most efficient means of preserving and storing these feed resources involves adding them to mixed feeds in dry form. According to data from the Krasnodar Polytechnic Institute, the dry wastes from the processing of cabbage, carrots and tomatoes contains 2-3 times more nitrogen substances than pulp, meadow hay and oats. Nitrogen-free extracts in them are represented by easily-digestible carbohydrates. These kinds of feeds are very nutritious. For example, 1 kilogram of feed meal made from squash contains 0.72 feed units and 47.3 grams of digestible protein; meal made from cabbage--0.84 feed units and 112 grams respectively; from apples (residue)--0.76 and 19; from carrots--0.87 and 109; and from tomatoes--0.61 feed units and 136 grams of protein.

There are many sources for replenishing feed reserves. All we must do is utilize them skilfully and in a timely manner.

It is a matter of honor for specialists and directors of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, organs of agroprom and all village workers to put all existing reserves into action, to supply farms with all the high-quality feed they require and to achieve steadfast growth in livestock production output.

8228
CSO: 18240345

GREATER STRIDES IN COOPERATIVES' PRODUCTION VIEWED

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 24, Jun 87 pp 16-17

[Roundtable discussion led by N. Tarasenko and V. Filippov: "The Cooperative: Potentialities, Problems and Prospects"; first three paragraphs are source introduction]

[Text] The first cooperatives under the territorial agencies of the USSR Gossnab [USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply] were created at the end of last year. Today, more than 450 associations have been registered for the procurement and processing of secondary resources. The development of the cooperative movement is directed at bringing into economic circulation local materials and various waste materials, and fuller utilization in social production of the labor of pensioners, students and other groups of the population.

The cooperatives are called on to promote an increase in the output of all kinds of consumer goods and certain kinds of industrial purpose products.

Thus, we have a new sector of economic activity. What kinds of obstacles appear on the way to establishing this important effort? Are the initiators getting support in organizations and departments? What has already been done? This was discussed at a weekly newspaper "roundtable" of the cooperative workers of the capital and Moscow Oblast. Participating in the discussion were representatives of local soviets and agencies of material-technical supply and executives of USSR Gossnab, USSR Minfin [Ministry of Finance], USSR Gosbank [USSR State Bank] and the USSR Minyust [Ministry of Justice].

The application was submitted to the territorial agency of USSR Gosnab. The necessary technical and economic justification for the activity of the cooperative was presented. Profitability and self-supporting production [samookupayemost] were demonstrated. . .

However, people with initiative have the floor.

But If Not To The Dump!

A. I. BASKAKOV ("Lyublino"): As was required, we registered the regulations in the ispolkom. We were received kindly in the Moskvoretskiy Rayon soviet, and we were quickly allocated premises. The cooperative has already started operating. We procure and process discarded wood. From textile wastes we sew automobile covers, which are bought from us by motor pools of industrial enterprises. Our cooperative has eight pensioners, five housewives and five students.

N. N. KURASHENKO ("Union of Automobile Experts," city of Dedovsk, Istrinskiy Rayon): We are engaged in the utilization of worn-out automobile parts. Previously all of this property went to the dump, or at best, was used as scrap metal. We intend to restore spare parts, one can say, from nothing. I think that thousands of car fanciers will be grateful to us for this. We have begun to restore used up oil filters. The annual volume of product output is 75,000 rubles.

Yu. V. PRYADCHENKO ("Alan"): We run into waxed, laminated paper literally at every step: milk packets and soup concentrate packages. In private life masses of cellophane and polyethelene records are wasted. And how much similar waste is accumulated in plants and factories! And so we thought, why burn such riches, and we began to produce packets, tablecloths and napkins from this raw material. The products are selling like hot cakes. This year we plan to produce them in the amount of about 200,000 rubles.

V. A. GERASIMOVICH ("Talitsy," Sofrino station, Pushkinskiy Rayon): Our birthday is in February 1987. People tackled the new job with enthusiasm. Today you can see examples of the products of the cooperative in one of the stores in Pushkino. These are consumer goods manufactured from wood and textile waste and broken glass. We think that we will deliver products to stores annually in the sum of 200,000 rubles.

INFORMATION OF MOSGLAVSNAB [Moscow Main Supply Board] and MOSGORGLAVSNAB [Moscow City Main Supply Board].

At the present time, there are 14 cooperatives in Moscow Oblast that are engaged in the procurement and processing of waste products. The following cooperatives have entered into practical activities: "Entuziast" (city of Kaliningrad, "Alfa" (city of Fryazino), "Opyt" (Pushkinskiy Rayon), "Nerl" (city of Balashikha), the "Union of Automobile Experts" and "Talitsy. Products in the sum of about 40,000 rubles were sold.

Sixteen cooperatives are registered in Moscow. Questions have been resolved concerning the procurement of raw materials and marketing of manufactured products. It is planned to produce popular consumer products and technical and industrial purpose products. The cooperatives "Alan," "Lyublino," "Dekor," "Poisk" and "Novator" have gone into operation. All of the premises allocated by the rayon soviet need capital repairs.

Credit--The Stumbling Block

Yes, initiative and enterprise have been given great scope. Artisans are taking to the organization of cooperatives with enthusiasm. This is especially important when the processing of secondary resources becomes a substantial reserve of the economy. It is sufficient to cite such figures as these: in Moscow Oblast alone, 73 million tons of waste are generated annually, including 58 million tons of industrial waste. The level of their utilization does not exceed 30 percent. Burial of solid everyday waste is conducted at 95 sites and dumps with a total area of 620 hectares. This is where there is a real gold mine!

In a word, people with initiative have the desire and opportunity to convert waste into income. Nonetheless, the process of creating cooperatives in Moscow, and in the oblast also, has been unjustifiably delayed. This was also noted at one of the recent collegiums of the USSR Gosbank. What were the reasons?

V.S. USAYEV ("Dekor"): The Leningradskiy ispolkom alloted us premises on Mikhalovskiy Street. They have to be put in order. The approximate cost for capital repairs is 25,000 rubles. The bank gives money only for production, but in no case does it give money for repairs. While the question is being settled and coordinated, work has to be done at home.

A. A. STAROSELSKIY ("Teatralnyy"): We have not begun to work. Repairs hang over us like the sword of Damocles. There was a meeting in Mossovet [Moscow City Soviet of Workers' Deputies], and the ispolkom was given instructions, but. . . the matter is moving from dead center with very, very great difficulty.

V. P. MOYSEYEV ("Loskut"): We languished for 4 months before we "broke into" the premises. And so what? For lack of elementary conditions, we are still not able to start operations. I went to everybody in the Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon of the capital. The answer was the same: credit is issued for the acquisition of equipment and raw materials.

M. A. RABINOVICH, chief of administration of the USSR Gosbank: I have a question. But can you, dear cooperators, earn these 20-25,000 rubles to return them to the state?

VOICES OF PARTICIPANTS: We expect to make a profit. We request at least 15,000. Without repairs, nothing can be started. What are your doubts?! The cooperative will produce products in the sum of 200,000 rubles. . .

M. A. RABINOVICH: Credit is not given for capital repairs. The ispolkoms of local soviets should allocate premises suitable for operations. Moreover, capital repairs are conducted by the organization which makes the premises available for renting.

A. Ye. VNUKOV, deputy chief of Mosglavsnab. We in the oblast also have problems with repairs. Something has to be decided.

V. I. SAFRYGIN, chief of the secondary resources section of Mosgorglavsnab: The Leningradskiy Rayon allocated the cooperative "Alfa" a semi-basement which was absolutely unsuitable for production activity: there is no gas, no light and no heating. What do they think about this in Mossovet?

V. V. AVEKOV, manager of the secretariat of the first deputy chairman of the Mosssovet ispolkom: Until recently cooperatives went to the non-residential premises section of Mosgorispolkom [Moscow city ispolkom] for a "roof over the head." At one of the recent meetings with chairman Comrade Saykin, it was considered advisable to transfer part of these functions to localities; that is, to the rayons. The matter of allocating premises will go faster. As for their repair, this question was also reviewed. It is not easy to find well-equipped premises in Moscow. Therefore, we agreed that repair would also be conducted in the rayon and, when necessary, the city would provide assistance.

COMMENTARY OF "EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA": The problem seems to be resolved, but, nonetheless, many questions remain. The creation of elementary conditions for the activity of cooperatives in the capital is truly moving along at a snail's pace. In addition, not everything is clear about tomorrow.

On the day before the "round table," our correspondent met with Yu. M. Luzhkov, deputy chairman of the Mossovet ispolkom. Yuriy Mikhaylovich emphasized that at first the gorispolkom will really help with repairs. But this is only at first, while there are not many cooperatives. And what will happen further?

It seems that it makes sense for the USSR Gosbank to consider the proposals that were raised at the meeting in the editorial offices of the weekly. First, to dot the "i's" on the question of alloting credit for repairs. And why should not the cooperatives perform repairs with their own means with a subsequent repayment through reduction of rental payments.

However, a lot of attention to the needs of cooperatives is also required on the part of the ispolkoms of the Soviets of People's Deputies. This is not simply a wish, but a critical requirement of restructuring.

From Debates--To Action

It is easy to ruin a new effort. At times all that is needed are several instructions. Therefore, cooperators fear over-organization and unnecessary regulation most of all.

N. N. KURASHENKO: Three types of activity are closely interrelated in our cooperatives: procurement of raw material, its processing, and the sale of products. And accounts have to be rendered for all the three types of activity. An accurate bookkeeping account has to be maintained, and a statistical record as recommended by the TsSU [Main Statistical Administration]. A mountain of papers has to be filed. One asks, when is there time to work, because the cooperative has only five persons?

B. P. MALYUTIN, chief specialist of the secondary resources administration of USSR Gossnab: I would like to note that those cooperatives that employ the

established form of accounting do not have such complaints--it is actually rather simple. However, there is a question. USSR Gossnab together with USSR Minfin and USSR TsSU have prepared a variant of a simplified bookkeeping account for small cooperatives, and also a statistical accountability that consists of one form instead of the current four forms.

G. I. POPOV, chief of a section of Mosoblplan [Moscow Oblast Planning Commission]: It is very important today to resolve all questions associated with the creation of cooperatives without bureaucratic delays. The ispolkom of Mosoblsovet formed a special commission. Because of its intervention, registration of cooperatives has been speeded up in the Noginskiy, Ramenskoy, Odintsovskiy and Pushkinskiy rayons. The commission coordinates and controls the work of rayon and city ispolkoms, financial-credit agencies and the administration for labor resources on which many cooperators depend in many ways. A special catalog on secondary resources available on the territory of the oblast has been published for initiative groups that have decided to engage in the processing of waste.

V. Ye. KALEDIN ("Vtorplast"): We talked here about the allocation of credit for the repair of premises. I want to note that not everything is going smoothly with the receipt of finances for acquiring equipment either. For example, we need 11 thermoplast devices. But their total cost in no way corresponds to the sum allocated to us on short-term credit. What shall we do?

I. N. SILANTYEV, deputy chief of Mosgorglavsnab: We ourselves looked into this problem. And we say to "Vtorplast": until you get on your feet, there will not be any profit, and you will not have your own means--do not aim for expensive equipment. Therefore, I think that two thermoplast devices are enough for the cooperative for a beginning, and afterwards we will acquire the other nine.

B. P. MALYUTIN: Why do you have to buy equipment, when it is much more advantageous to lease it. Moreover, this does not require large immediate expenditures by the cooperative and, consequently, large credit as well, and it spares the burden of its sale in the event that the cooperative is liquidated or the thrust of its activity is changed. It is even better if the cooperative concludes a contractual relationship with an enterprise client that has the ability to lease both the equipment and the premises.

A. L. KONOVALOV ("Shtamp"): This is exactly the way we did it. We concluded a contract with the NPO "VNIIMETMASH" [National Production Association of the "All-Union Scientific Research, Planning and Design Institute of Metallurgical Machinery"]. The association found production space for the cooperative and transferred equipment to its books. The benefit was mutual. The NPO has a plant which is not coping with the consumer goods plan, and we will help them get out of this holdup.

V. A. GERASIMOVICH: Comrades, in my opinion there is one more constructive proposal. I bring it up in your court in the form of a discussion. Our debate is going on for the third hour, and it might just as well not have been held, because we all should turn for credit not to the Gosbank but to the

people who have deposits in their savings books. According to the desires of citizens, their savings are used to finance the production and administrative activity of cooperatives. According to the results of operations, the cooperative transfers to Gosbank or to the savings bank a contracted sum of received profits to pay for interest on deposits. But the depositor does not receive 3 percent annual interest, as is the custom, but, let us say, 5 or 6 percent. I publicized this proposal in one of the central newspapers, and it evoked quite a few statements by citizens who wanted to make their own investment in the formation of our cooperative.

AFTERWARD TO THE CONVERSATION. At the meeting in the editorial offices of EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA, various points of view were expressed and quite a few proposals were made to improve the new link in economic activity. For example, and practically everyone agreed with this, there is a need to specify a model regulation for a cooperative on the procurement and processing of secondary resources. There was talk about the necessity for creating a coordinating center under USSR Gossnab, regulating pricing and more aggressively utilizing not only industrial waste, but domestic waste as well.

At the same time, a lot of critical and burning issues of the day were raised at the "round table" meeting which, unfortunately, were left unanswered. The initiators of new business have been awaiting eagerly for more than one month to hear a clear explanation from Goskomtrud [State Committee for Labor and Social Problems]: under what conditions can cooperatives, aside from pensioners, enlist the services of students, housewives and other groups of the population?

Everyone interprets the procedure for setting an agreed price for industrial products in his own way. An uneven requirement is levied on cooperatives in localities on the necessity to approve technical conditions "at the top." An obvious reluctance exists among sales people to order products created by associations that are needed in the region of goods in public demand. Up to the present, the industrial ministries have shown no interest in the new effort. Therefore, we think that the conversation begun in our editorial offices will be continued not only by our readers, but also by workers of USSR Minfin, USSR Mintorg [Ministry of Trade], Goskomtrud and other interested departments and organizations.

TABLE

Procurement and Processing of Secondary Raw Materials by Cooperatives Under USSR Gossnab Territorial Agencies

(Status as of 28 May 1987)

Republics	Cooperatives Created	Planned Volume of Annual Product Output in Thousands of Rubles
USSR	458	46,946
RSFSR	250	24,850
Ukranian SSR	60	5,370
Belorussian SSR	51	2,690
Uzbek SSR	11	1,218
Kazakh SSR	7	1,037
Georgian SSR	7	1,338
Azerbaijan SSR	8	2,546
Lithuanian SSR	6	1,300
Moldavian SSR	6	370
Latvian SSR	11	830
Kirghiz SSR	8	406
Tajik SSR	2	58
Armenian SSR	14	3,277
Turkmen SSR	3	370
Estonian SSR	14	1,286

(Table compiled from USSR Gossnab data)

13051
CSO: 1827/102

UDC 637.1"71"

SUMMARY OF DAIRY INDUSTRY OUTPUT FROM 1975-1985

Moscow MOLOCHNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST in Russian No 5, May 87 pp 1-4

[Article by engineer M. S. Kanevskiy, State Institute for the Planning of Dairy Industry Enterprises of the USSR State Agroindustrial Committee: "Basic Directions in the Long-Term Development of the Dairy Industry"]

[Text] The 27th CPSU Congress defined the basic tasks of the agro-industrial complex--attainment of a stable growth of agricultural production, the country's reliable provision with food products and agricultural raw materials, and unification of the efforts of all its sectors for obtaining high end results in accordance with the USSR Food Program. At the same time, it is necessary to improve the quality of output, to eliminate its losses at all the stages of production, transportation, storage, and sale, and to improve the siting of processing industry enterprises.

These tasks form the basis for the scheme for the development and placement of the USSR dairy industry for the period until the year 2005 worked out by the State Institute for the Planning of Dairy Industry Enterprises. Calculations utilize data on planned milk purchase volumes and on the population growth in terms of economic regions and Union republics obtained from the Council for the Study of Productive Forces Under the USSR Gosplan (SOPS), as well as report materials of the former USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and ministries of the meat and dairy industry of Union republics concerning output volumes, the expenditure of raw material resources, including secondary raw materials, the state of the sector's production and technical base, the availability of capacities, and a number of others.

During the forecast period the development of the dairy industry should be directed toward the accomplishment of the following basic tasks:

improving the structure of production utilization of raw material resources and bringing it closer to the structure recommended by science;

smoothing out territorial differences in the production and consumption of nontransportable types of dairy products;

increasing the proportion of secondary raw materials allocated for industrial processing, including for food purposes;

significantly raising labor productivity through an improvement in the utilization of productive capital, large-scale retooling and reconstruction of existing enterprises, efficient concentration and specialization of production, and its mechanization and automation.

A significant growth of output of dairy products is envisaged during the planned period. The production of cheese, dry whole milk, dry mixtures for babies, and canned milk should grow at the highest rates. This will lead to certain shifts in the structure of milk use. For example, 12.4 percent of its total volume (in 1985, 7.35 percent) will be allocated for the output of cheese and 5.3 percent (in 1985, 4.9 percent), of dry whole milk, dry baby food mixtures, and canned milk.

The per-capita production of all types of dairy products will increase by approximately 18 percent as compared with 1985 and, in practice, will reach the per-capita amounts of consumption recommended by science.

Plans are made to significantly improve the utilization of secondary raw materials. With an increase of 35 percent in the resources of skim milk and buttermilk during the forecast period their industrial processing will double, including in the production of dry skim milk and whole milk substitutes, triple. The resources of whey will double and the volume of its industrial processing will increase more than 3.5-fold, including in the production of dry and concentrated products, 15-fold and of milk sugar and enriched whey, threefold. The utilization of these raw materials will almost double in the food industry, in particular in bread baking, which will make it possible to increase the nutritive qualities and palatability of bread and flour products and to lower flour consumption.

The scheme also envisages territorial shifts in production placement. For example, the proportion of Siberia, the Far East, the Transcaucasus, Kazakhstan, and Central Asia in the output of whole milk products is increasing markedly--from 16.7 to 26 percent. In the year 2005 the per-capita output of these products in the enumerated regions will increase more than 1.5-fold.

The proportion of krays and oblasts in Central and West Siberian economic regions of the RSFSR and of the Belorussian SSR in the production of rennet cheese will increase. Volga, North Caucasian, and Ural economic regions of the RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR will basically retain their positions. The share of Transcaucasian republics in the production of this product will be lowered in order to ensure high rates of growth of the output of whole milk products. An increase in output in Central Asian republics (mainly in the Kirghiz SSR and the Uzbek SSR) and in Kazakhstan is envisaged.

The role of Central, North Caucasian, Ural, and West and East Siberian economic regions of the RSFSR in butter production will increase. Their proportion will make up 28 percent (in 1985, 26 percent); of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, 8.5 percent (6.5 percent). Butter output in Transcaucasian republics will be reduced by 20 percent.

The share of dry skim milk and whole milk substitutes produced in Volgo-Vyatka, Volga, and North Caucasian economic regions of the RSFSR will increase--from 10 to 14 percent; in the Ukrainian SSR, from 19 to 21 percent; in the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, from 4.5 to 9 percent.

The geography of placement of the milk canning industry will hardly change. Higher rates of growth of canned milk output are envisaged in Central, North Caucasian, and Ural economic regions of the RSFSR and in Latvian and Lithuanian republics and of dry whole milk output, in North Western, North Caucasian, and Ural economic regions of the RSFSR and in the Belorussian SSR.

Central, North Caucasian, and Ural economic regions of the RSFSR, Baltic republics, and Ukrainian, Belorussian, and Kazakh republics will occupy the leading place in the output of dry whey and Central, Volga, North Caucasian, and West Siberian economic regions of the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, the Belorussian SSR, and Baltic republics, of concentrated whey. On the whole, however, the geography of whey output will coincide to a significant degree with the geography of placement of cheese making.

The planned growth of output of dairy products will require a significant expansion of the sector's production and technical base. It is not merely a matter of an increase in capacities, but also of significant shifts in their structure and of a fundamental fixed capital replacement.

Approximately one-half of the presently operating dairy industry enterprises (without taking into consideration the low-level milk-receiving network and shops of kolkhozes and sovkhozes) have a low capacity, are poorly equipped technically, and, as a rule, are located on adapted production premises. The level of labor mechanization and automation, especially of loading-unloading and transport warehouse operations, is low here. Such plants are unable to organize overall raw material processing, nor do they meet present requirements in environmental protection.

We can judge the level of production concentration from the following data: Seventy percent of the total number of enterprises producing whole milk products have a capacity of up to 50 tons per shift, 60 percent of the cheese making plants, up to 1 ton of cheese, and 35 percent of the dry skim milk and whole milk substitute plants, up to 3 tons of the dry product.

The average shift capacity of enterprises for specialized products is characterized by the data in table 1 (as compared with 1975).

If we take into consideration that the raw material resources of the dairy industry increased by 21 percent during the period under consideration, the growth of 28 percent in the average capacity should be considered very modest.

The data on the increase in the average capacity (milk processing, tons per shift) and on the change in the average radius of delivery of raw materials in individual Union republics and economic regions are presented in table 2.

To attain the volumes of production of dairy products envisaged for a long-term period (with due regard for the fact that 20 to 30 percent of the

increase should be obtained through an improvement in the utilization of available capacities), the scheme envisages the following increase in capacities in 20 years, as compared with their availability at present: for the production of whole milk products, 1.4-fold; of rennet cheese, 1.6-fold; of butter, 1.3-fold; of dry whole milk and dry baby products, 16 percent; of dry skim milk, whole milk substitutes, and dry whey, 2.8-fold.

Table 1

Type of Enterprise	Capacity		
	1975	1985	1985 in relation to 1975, %
Dairy combines, city and other dairy plants, tons of whole milk products	40	48	120
Cheese making combines and plants, tons of cheese	1.0	1.3	130
Butter making combines, dry skim milk and whole milk substitute plants, tons of dry product	2.7	3.3	122
Dry whole milk and dry baby product combines, tons of dry product	8.7	8.7	100
Canned milk combines, thousand standard cans	73	115	158
Average shift capacity of all types of enterprises for milk processing, tons	39	50	128

Table 2

Union republic and economic region	Capacity			Average radius of raw material delivery, km	
	1975	1985	1985 in relation to 1975, %	1975	1985
RSFSR	33	44	133	28	31
including regions: Northern and North-Western	21	26	124	23	25
Central and Central-Chernozem	40	52	130	16	17
Volgo-Vyatka	33	50	151	17	19
North Caucasian	39	55	141	22	24
Ural-Volga	43	58	135	24	26
Siberia and the Far East	26	34	131	37	39
UkSSR and Moldavia	62	71	113	17	18
BSSR	60	84	140	19	20
Baltic republics	71	109	153	15	17
Central Asia and Kazakhstan	31	50	161	44	42

A significant commissioning of capacities for the production of milk sugar, concentrated whey, dry protein concentrates, and other products from secondary raw materials is also envisaged.

The reproduction and technological structure of capital investments is being improved. As a result of retooling, reconstruction, and expansion, on the whole, the commissioning of capacities will comprise more than 60 percent of their total volume (during the 10th and 11th five-year plans, 45 percent).

In the total volume of capital investments the proportion of construction and installation work will decrease from 43.6 to 41.7 percent and that of retooling and reconstruction will increase from 46 to 56 percent.

The share of capital investments allocated for the development of the dairy industry in Siberia, the Far East, Central Asian republics, and Kazakhstan will increase from 20 to 23 percent.

Over a long-term period it is planned to build and expand more than 1,000 enterprises, including more than 500 dairy combines and city dairy plants, 160 cheese making plants, and 175 dry skim milk and whole milk substitute plants.

New dairy combines will be built or existing ones will be expanded in almost all the capitals of Union republics, as well as in most other big cities: Leningrad, Volgograd, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Krasnoyarsk, Kuybyshev, Rostov, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, and Ufa; cheese making combines, in the following cities: Biysk (10 tons of cheese per shift) and Pochinok in Smolensk Oblast, Danilov in Yaroslavl Oblast, Talovoya in Voronezh Oblast, Sovetsk in Kirov Oblast (5 tons of cheese), and Gulbene in the Latvian SSR (6.5 tons); butter making combines in the following cities: Velikiy Ustyug in Vologda Oblast, Uryupinsk in Volgograd Oblast (7 tons of whole milk substitutes per shift), Shumikha in Kurgan Oblast, Novaya Kakhovka in Kherson Oblast, and Shyaulyay in the Lithuanian SSR (12 tons of whole milk substitutes each).

Selecting optimal sizes (capacities) of enterprises slated for construction, expansion, or reconstruction in various regions is an important task.

The construction of enterprises of optimal sizes makes it possible to significantly lower capital investments in the establishment of capacities, to organize overall raw material processing, and to fully utilize highly productive equipment and means of mechanization and automation. Here, as compared with small enterprises similar in their structure, labor productivity is 25 to 40 percent higher and the specific consumption of water and electric and thermal power is much lower.

For the dairy industry the optimal capacity is determined by the following basic factors: the quantity of raw materials and the density of their placement on the territory included in the raw material zone; availability and technical state of the road network, as well as of existing processing and milk receiving enterprises; the level of equipment, technology, and organization of the acceptance and initial processing of milk.

The research conducted has shown that with due regard for the enumerated factors primarily enterprises of a capacity of 25 to 50 tons of milk per shift are optimal for Northern, in part, North Western, East-Siberian, and Far Eastern economic regions of the RSFSR and Transcaucasian and Central Asian republics; 50 to 100 tons, for Volgo-Vyatka, Ural, West Siberian, in part North Western, and Volga economic regions and the Kazakh SSR; 100 to 200 tons of milk and more per shift, for the other economic regions of the RSFSR, Belorussia, the Ukraine, Moldavia, and Baltic republics. However, in every economic region the optimal sizes of enterprises can be changed depending on the place of their location.

The given factors are taken into account primarily during the calculation of the capacity of cheese making, butter making, and canned milk combines and plants. With regard to city dairy plants it is determined by the need for output, not by the volume of raw material resources. As a rule, in cities where the population is up to 1 million, one city dairy plant is sufficient. However, where the population is bigger, it is advisable (with due regard for the geography of the city and its configuration and location in relation to the raw material base) to have two or several enterprises.

In 20 years it is necessary to build a total of 475 milk processing enterprises of the basic production structure--dairy combines, city dairy plants, and cheese making, dry skim milk, and whole milk substitute plants. A total of 300 of the entire number of plants under construction, or 63 percent, are of a small capacity (up to 30 tons of milk processing per shift), 133, or 28 percent, of an average capacity (30 to 100 tons), and 40, or 9 percent, of a large capacity (more than 100 tons). Several hundreds of existing enterprises will be expanded and reconstructed during this period.

As a result, the sector's fixed productive capital will be replaced almost 120 percent (6 percent annually).

The accomplishment of the envisaged tasks will depend on the sector's provision with modern technological equipment and with means of labor mechanization and automation, which it needs acutely.

The development of the dairy industry will require 15.8 billion rubles of capital investments (in 1984 prices), including 5.7 billion for construction and installation work. It is assumed that, as a result of the implementation of what has been envisaged by the scheme, the volume of output will rise 1.8-fold, output per ton of raw materials, 1.3-fold, and labor productivity, 2.4-fold. The task of reducing through intensification the number of workers in the sector by more than 20 percent and production costs by 8 percent is set.

The realization of the elaborated scheme for developing the dairy industry will be a significant contribution to attaining a full satisfaction of the population's growing demand for high-quality and varied dairy products.

11439
CSO: 1827/88

KHARKOV OBLAST POLLED ON POOR CONSUMER SERVICES

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jul 87 p 2

[Article compiled by Z. Gonzalyez, A. Kleva, and V. Romanyuk, under the rubric "IZVESTIYA Round Table": "Locally Produced Commodities: Discussion About Problems of Satisfying the Consumer Demand"; first six paragraphs are source introduction; last two paragraphs are source conclusion]

[Text] Irrespective of its area of specialization, a plant or association is obliged to produce consumer goods. That fact is stated in the Law Governing the State Enterprise. Refrigerators and washing machines, lighting fixtures and vacuum cleaners, bicycles and toys are being produced today by our industrial giants. But there is still an obvious shortage of good commodities. This point was raised sharply at the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. It was noted that in certain ministries the approach taken to the production of consumer goods is a formal one, as though it is a matter of secondary importance, and in a few places it is considered to be only a burden.

The Kharkov Obkom of the Communist Party of the Ukraine [UkCP] and the IZVESTIYA editorial board, in organizing a round table discussion on the topic "Consumer Goods -- Restructuring, Experience, Problems (Group A)" -- could not fail to invite to the meeting at least one or two hundred of the most interested persons -- the consumers. And a quick survey conducted by IZVESTIYA sociologists has shown than 85 percent of those surveyed had never had the opportunity to express their opinion with respect to the commodities that they use. The workers in the trade system, in industry, and the services sphere had simply not asked them for their views.

The sociologists surveyed 225 workers (34.8 percent), employees (24.5 percent), kolkhoz workers (21.6 percent) and engineer-technical and creative workers (19.1 percent). We shall arbitrarily consider their answers to the questions to be the consumer's opinion.

Every ruble of the earnings of the workers in the production sphere in Kharkov Oblast is provided with commodities bearing a local trade mark with a value of 1.45 rubles. That is one of the best indicators in the republic. Every year approximately 2000 new items are assimilated here. A number of articles are exported -- bicycles, electric shavers, juicers, and many other items.

The participants at the round table, which was conducted both in the building that houses the oblast ispolkom and at a number of Kharkov plants, included managers of party and soviet agencies, industrial enterprises, the trade system, Gosbank, Gossnab, and local industry. There were also guests from Moscow -- Deputy Chairman of USSR Gossnab A. Bochkov; Deputy Chairman of USSR Gosstandart I. Isayev; USSR Deputy Minister of the Electrical Equipment Industry Yu. Nikitin; N. Novikov, deputy department chief, USSR Gosplan; and A. Badyukov, deputy chief of the production administration of USSR Minselkhozmash [Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building]. Participants from Kiev included G. Dzis, deputy chairman of the UkSSR Council of Ministers; UkSSR Minister of Local Industry Yu. Bondar; and others.

The situation with regard to the production of consumer goods (TNP) in the oblast was described by V. Mysnichenko, first secretary of the party's Kharkov Obkom. Participants in the discussion included A. Maselskiy, chairman of the oblispolkom; obkom secretary N. Skidan; L. Stasevskiy, deputy chairman of the oblispolkom; and other oblast administrators.

Makeweight to the Plan

The consumer's opinion with regard to the rate of provision with manufactured consumer goods:

Noticeable improvement	5.3 percent
Slight improvement	35.2 percent
No change	30.4 percent
Somewhat worse	15.9 percent
Considerably worse	7.7 percent

The rest of the persons surveyed were undecided.

Nevertheless almost 40 percent of those surveyed had noticed those shifts that had occurred with respect to the rate of provision with manufactured consumer goods during the past two years -- and that itself is a good indication! Because everyone understands that people judge the rates of restructuring not so much on the basis of what they see in the newspapers, as they do on the basis of what they see on the shop shelves.

V. Mysnichenko reported that, out of 341 enterprises in the oblast, only 28 do not produce manufactured consumer goods. Moreover, the production of manufactured consumer goods is growing more rapidly than the production of manufactured output as a whole -- that gives a rather good basis for optimism. This year the oblast agencies gave the enterprises additional assignments for producing commodities valued at a total of 74 million rubles.

However, the simple question arises: where are those additional commodities to be made? The problem is resolved by having the enterprises change over to two-shift or three-shift operations. Incidentally, the discussion of production took an interesting turn: multishift operations and consumer goods. How are they interrelated?

"In the most direct manner," B. Podgornyy, Elektrotyazhmash chief engineer, said. "For many years we have been producing juicers. Two years ago we produced 5000 of them, and last year, 55,000. That was profitable for us: we had high profitability of production, large deductions to be paid into various funds, and a stable, well-paid collective. By the end of the five-year plan we intend to increase the volume of consumer goods by a factor of 2.5.

"At the enterprise, the juicer is being constantly improved. Today it is already almost fully automatic and in the future could become the basis of a kitchen processor. The plant was able to produce a semiautomatic juicer as early as 1985. Everything was ready at that time except for one thing -- the shop. We certified the work stations, and some of them were painlessly eliminated. But it turned out that that was not enough. We changed over to multishift operations -- we freed sectors in various buildings.

"Today Elektrotyazhmash has resolved the problem of producing 100,000 juicers and we have space reserves in the amount of 1000 square meters. By the end of the year the collective wants to prepare to produce Malyutka washing machines. Then the problem of where to make them will be resolved."

However, there is another problem -- electric motors. Yu. Nikitin, deputy minister of the electrical equipment industry, said at the session, "The need in the national economy for electric motors for household appliances has been growing constantly and rapidly. For Elektrotyazhmash, that need is measured in the hundreds of thousands, and for the region as a whole it approaches a million. We did some thinking about this yesterday and we made the decision to work out the problems of producing electric motors here in Kharkov. In those quantities that the oblast needs, and in the shortest periods of time."

If that decision was the only one, then one could say with a clear conscience that the round table discussion has not been in vain.

The technical policy is constructed differently at the famous KhTZ [Kharkov Tractor Plant]. At that plant the attempt is made to fasten the production of consumer goods onto the basis output of the shops, but not much that is beneficial results from that. A. Fedyunyayev, the plant's chief engineer, who spoke at the round table, showered praise on the petty household items that the tractor builders are offering to the public. He even asserted that giants such as KhTZ do not have to worry about producing such commodities there.

Statement from the floor: "For every ruble of wage fund, you produce consumer goods valued at 13 kopecks. That's the lowest indicator in the oblast."

A. Fedyunyayev: "We are planning to assimilate five or six complicated items. We have begun creating the TD-8 mini-tractor for individual consumers. We shall make 15 of them this year."

Question: "How many of your specialists are engaged in creating new commodities?"

"The chief designer's department and the chief technologist's department have 27 people."

But that is at a tremendous plant! Could that be the reason why you have been "creating" this very mini-tractor for five years?

"Our problem lies somewhere else: many articles are unprofitable for the enterprise. And it is no simple matter to find the space to produce them. After the decision to put the mini-tractor into production, it will be necessary to expand the space, allocate the equipment, and carry out other operations."

Statement from the floor: "All that is true. But why are you saying 'after the decision'? The documentation for the Malyutka is already being developed at Elektrotyazhmash, and the production areas are already waiting."

Is it because Elektrotyazhmash's chief engineer says that it is profitable for the collective to make the commodities, but the KhTZ chief engineer gives assurances that they result only in losses? Of course, neither one of them would make any attempt to make sly statements. But the first person efficiently organizes mass production -- specifically for the sake of deriving a profit. But the second one unhurriedly, in the middle of producing other articles, produces small consignments in order not to be severely criticized. Solely for the purpose of deception!

At the round table meeting the proposal was made to send a representative of the Kharkov Tractor Plant on an official trip to Moscow for a meeting with A. Yezhevskiy, minister of agricultural and tractor machine building. But when will the good, solid production of consumer goods be organized at the plant? That will have to be ascertained by Hero of Socialist Labor Fedor Stepanovich Omelin, the leader of a brigade of fitters. His meeting with the minister will be discussed on the pages of IZVESTIYA.

A Nice Price

The consumer's opinion about the prices of manufactured commodities:

A higher price for good commodities is justified -- 20 percent

The prices are already rather nigh -- 22 percent

The prices are going up, but quality is dropping -- 37 percent

In the remaining answers there were so many stipulations that it is difficult to put them in any group.

The round table participants, by virtue of their rights as consumers, also took part in a sociological survey and expressed their views concerning prices. It is curious that half of them (55 percent) voted for raising the prices for well-made articles that are reliable in operation.

But the question arises: how does one define "well-made"? Someone mentioned a vacuum cleaner that the trade system had put into the category of prestigious items. But the prestige consists in the fact that the cord is put away somewhere, and it is possible to sit on the vacuum cleaner as though it was a

stool. But it still sucks up the dirt with the same effort that a simple little 40-ruble vacuum cleaner does.

Here is another example: a baby carriage lined with velvet, and the same baby carriage in a more modest lining. In general, it makes no difference to the infant, but it is another matter for the parents. They want to "keep up with the Ivanovs." But they have to be pay twice as much...

But they have to. The round table participants gave assurances in unison that the trade system will stop ordering cheap items as soon as similar expensive ones appear. From the discussion on this topic one could clearly make the conclusion: the trade system must offer for same the broadest range of commodities, for similar tastes and capabilities -- expensive and good, and inexpensive -- but also good.

"Recently the state Quality Seal was given to the new Ukraina road bike," A. Shevchuk, bicycle plant director, reported.

That is a surprising example for our times. The plant is situated in old buildings that practically go back to the eighteenth century. The remodeling is proceeding slowly and poorly. The metallurgists do not provide the bicycle builders with good rolled metal, and the chemists do not provide them with good paints. Even the Yugoslavs and Finns, from whom we receive our paints, fail to meet the requirements of bicycle production.

But the Ukraina road bike has been receiving the completely justified Quality Seal. Also, the Takhion bicycle has already been created and it can compete with the output of the French and Italian companies that have been acknowledged as the authorities in this area. The new tourist-sports bicycle is not only better than the previous one, but is also 3 rubles cheaper. But the previously mentioned Ukraina is 12 rubles cheaper because it is a kilogram lighter and, as the production workers say, it is more technological.

One could mention a dozen circumstances thanks to which it was possible to make a good and inexpensive bicycle. But we shall give only two of them -- the chief ones. First, that was exactly what the collective wanted -- to present the consumer with an inexpensive bicycle that can compete in the world market. Secondly, the Central Design Technological Bureau (TsKTB) was annexed to the plant.

Quite recently it was subordinate to one of the main administrations in the ministry, but, in the designers' plans, the needs of the bicycle plant occupied only five percent. The rest was basically new instructional guides, methodologies, norms, recommendations, and other paperwork.

But the situation has changed, and in the TsKTB plan the share of the plant's orders is now equal to 40 percent. That is not the limit, of course, but it has proved to be sufficient to acquire a good and inexpensive bicycle.

The search to achieve a lower price took one and a half years, because it was necessary to achieve that without a loss of profit, without inflicting, so to speak, losses on themselves. They reduced the labor-intensity of the

operations, used plastics and cast aluminum, and brought the coefficient of metal use when manufacturing many designs to 0.9.

But what attitude did the trade system take to the fact that the bicycles had become cheaper, G. Merenkov, deputy chief of the oblast trade administration, was asked.

"Two years ago this would have been perceived as a present -- the demand for bicycles was falling at that time," he answered, letting it be known that the situation is different and that nowadays the price reduction is no longer a present. But obviously G. Merenkov did not want to look like a proponent of price inflation and therefore he added, "Nevertheless, today too an inexpensive bicycle is also to our liking -- commodity turnover is speeded up."

Both on the basis of the results of the sociological survey and on the basis of the statements (which, incidentally, were rather sharp ones) made at the round table discussion, one can assume that many producers of commodities and many sellers have no objection to using the price to cover over their own work deficiencies.

"Four of our articles proved to be loss items, and it was necessary to remove them from production," V. Pobiypich, director of the Gotvald Machine Building Plant, complained. "If a price was indicated in the price list, then there was no way to 'jump out' of it. We wanted to assimilate the production of a metal plate from waste products, but our production cost for it was 11 kopecks. The price in the price list was 8 kopecks. We would have to lose 3 kopecks on every plate."

If one deciphers these complaints, everything turns out very simply: either the customer is supposed to lose money, or we are not supposed to make a commodity at all. But as far as expecting people, like the bicycle builders, to work a bit harder, to search a bit longer, and to create the conditions for creating good and inexpensive output -- frequently that alternative is not even considered.

How New Items Get Old

The consumer's opinion about the possibility of buying a necessary item:

I always find what I need in the stores -- 2 percent

I do not always (or I rarely) find what I need in the stores -- 77 percent

I absolutely never find the commodities I need -- 17 percent

The others could not decide what group they belonged to.

Almost 60 percent of those who cannot satisfy their demand explain this simply: it rarely happens that what they need is in the stores, and they do not have the time to go running around to find them. It is complicated, very

complicated, to buy a vacuum cleaner, a freezer, a tape recorder, an electric mixer, or a washing machine, and simply impossible to buy a sewing machine.

Statement from the floor: "You should know that it is complicated to buy technically complicated items."

"Yesterday we were at an exhibition of consumer goods that are produced in the oblast. One could easily see how poorly the complicated household appliances were represented, and how the technically unsound output produced by the largest enterprises fails to conform to those enterprises' opportunities," I. Isayev, deputy chairman of USSR Gosstandart, remarked.

In the office of M. Takor'yants, director of Mashinostroitelnogo Zavoda imeni Dzerzhinskogo [Association], still another exhibition of locally produced commodities was awaiting us. The director began the tour of that exhibition, of course, with the cameras that personify the history of the enterprise. But on the long table they occupies an extremely modest place that did not completely conform to the substantial overall volumes of consumer goods. Then we saw a pruner -- the best in the country; a children's construction set with a certificate from the VDNKh [Exhibition of the Achievements of the National Economy]; peepholes; magnifying glasses; and other small items.

One wonders whether an enterprise will be able, by means of a good pruner like that, to maintain the glory that it acquired at one time thanks to its FED [cameras]. One would scarcely think so. But no special attempt to catch up with the picture-taking public as a whole is discernible.

And why should they attempt to do so? The enterprise is fulfilling its plan for consumer goods. It is almost coping with the additional assignments. People eagerly buy the pruners and mixers. Actually, the mixers for bathtub faucets are good, and if the other enterprises in the branch were to begin producing them, there would be no lines at the Santekhnika [Plumbing Fixtures] stores. However, the cameras...

The participants in the round table discussion had to spend a certain amount of time in order to disperse, if only briefly, the atmosphere of placidity in the director's office. But apparently they did not succeed in proving that one should not produce yesterday's photographic equipment, even if people do buy it (and where can you get anything else?). Dozens of extenuating circumstances were found.

A heavy camera? Well, it's not made of plastic!

The camera is not equipped with an automatic feature? The suppliers have been letting us down.

Obsolete technological processes for taking photographs? We're ready right now to take Polaroid photographs with an instantaneous-print camera. But the chemists are not planning the production of photographic materials for them until 1990. Therefore the Kharkovites have slowed down with the camera. Surprising logic!

On the whole, the people argued for a long time but they were unable to convince one another. Then they went into a shop where hundreds of women were manually assembling cameras on an assembly line.

"Why don't you assign these monotonous operations to robots?" M. Takoryants was asked.

"We can't," the director answered. "It is an obsolete design that uses screws. There isn't any robot that can maintain that."

The reason why we have described this episode in such detail is by no means that the plant is the worst among the enterprises with respect to consumer goods or that its cameras are the worst. But there is a tendency that I. Isayev mentioned: to do what is a little bit simpler and a little bit cheaper.

No one wants to strain himself and to make a clothespin better than anyone else can. People ask to prohibit their neighbor from producing clothespins, and then their own commodity will automatically become the best one. Meanwhile, as was emphasized at the June Plenum of the Central Committee, it is high time to stop doing work for the warehouse, which is not only wasteful, but absolutely absurd.

"Wait For an Answer..."

The consumer's opinion about the restructuring of heavy industry in the production of consumer goods:

It is proceeding at average rates -- 10.1 percent

It is proceeding slowly -- 40.6 percent

Essentially speaking, it has not begun -- 32.4 percent

More than 16 percent of the persons surveyed were unable to give a definite answer.

Once again let us notice the disparity between the consumers' opinions and the producers'. Among the round table participants, only 8.3 percent feel that the restructuring has not begun. But exactly one-fourth of those present are convinced that it is proceeding at average rates. This disparity, in general, is explainable.

But it is necessary to consider the fact that the road to a certain place is paved with good intentions. Let us see specifically where that place is. It is well known that every enterprise in Group A receives an annual plan from its ministry. Then many labor collectives develop the counterplans. But then the local agencies of the Soviet authority, proceeding from the local comprehensive program, give additional assignments that are computed in the millions of rubles.

However, it is impossible to make commodities valued at millions of rubles out of the air, by using one's bare hands, which, incidentally, might not be

available. And so, simultaneously with the directive assignment to the enterprise, the very same Kharkov Oblispolkom gets in touch with the appropriate department, for example, Soyuzmargarinprom, under USSR Gosagroprom [State Agroindustrial Committee], and says, "Proceeding from the oblast's assignments, the experimental machine-repair plant must increase the production of consumer goods by 1990... Please guarantee the allocation to the plant..."

And it receives the reply: "On the basis of what has been set forth, the Soyuzmargarinprom VPO [All-Union Industrial Association] deems it undesirable at the present time to produce consumer goods at the KhERM [Kharkov Experimental Machine-Repair Plant], is not including them in its plan, and is not allocating material resources for that purpose."

What had previously been "set forth" is of no importance -- every ministry learned long ago how to "set forth." What is also unprincipled is the fact that others refuse more diplomatically. For example: "USSR Minelektrotekhprom [Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry] will communicate additionally concerning the final resolution of the question that was posed." Or: "After confirmation of the control figures for the branch, your proposals will be viewed additionally" (Minstroydormash [Ministry of Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building]).

The result is the situation that is typical of red-tape methods of administration: it is as though the ministry has done its job, and so has the oblispolkom, and the enterprise is left with the additional assignment, but no means of fulfilling it.

"What do you want?" FED director M. Takoryants asked when he was pinned to the wall about the peepholes and pruners. "The rayispolkom gave me the last additional assignment. But what can it propose for implementing it?"

That question, incidentally, is not so simple as it may seem. It is just that today, when everyone has simply become accustomed to directive assignments, it is felt that nothing else is needed but the words "You have to!" But there has long been a need -- and the recently held Plenum of the party's Central Committee has confirmed this -- to change over from directive assignments to state production orders. Then it will turn out that the local soviets can do a very great deal in the socioeconomic development on their territory.

"In our republic," G. Dzis, deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine, said, "the above-norm reserves of material values increased by 70 percent during the past five-year plan and reached 1.5 million rubles."

Statement from the floor: "Ought one to ask once again whether this is already excessive and whether it is necessary to issue orders in only an efficient manner!! But an intermediary is needed."

There are very complicated problems -- for example, the previously mentioned plastics. Everyone needs them, and we might as well admit that our chemical industry is lagging very far behind here. But that does not mean that they can be expended without any accounting. A. Bochkov cited an example: a razor

produced in Kharkov takes 50-60 grams of plastic. The case for the razor, which could easily be made out of a different material, takes 195 grams.

"Little use is made of the production base in the Group A branches," Yu. Bondar, UkSSR minister of local industry, complained. "With the changeover to double-shift operation, space is being freed and it is possible to use the capacities of the galvanic and cutting-tool shops for the production of commodities. But what is actually happening? The cutting-tool plant undertook to help us in the assimilation of the cutting tools. But it is necessary for us to make all the necessary rigging."

Question: "What kind of help is that?"

"Actually, none!"

Local industry requires special discussion. The round table participants visited the Metallopribor Plant in Kharkov. The plant produces 34 items for everyday use -- bread boxes, containers for vegetables and fruit, table appliances... During the current year it was planned to manufacture 20,000 containers for vegetable storage facilities and ORS [workers' supply departments]. Then the plant received an assignment to make 9000 more of them. But that requires 540 additional tons of metal. Where is the plant supposed to get it? Only a small amount of high-grade metal is being allocated, and it is also no easy matter to get one's hands on waste products. From the use of 6000-7000 tons of metal waste products a year, they have dropped to 2000-3000.

"It's not because we do not like to handle waste products," I. Goncharenko, director of the Metallopribor plant, says. "The procedure of getting them has become more complicated. Previously the oblispolkom issued requisitions to the plants, and we signed 'Form-18,' according to which the waste products that we received were included in the plan for turnover of metal scrap. There were also levers for exerting an effect: if the enterprises failed to fulfill their pledges with regard to the turning over of waste products, the resources that were allocated to them were reduced by exactly the same amount. Now that procedure has been violated. The ministries are in charge of the waste products, and it is less trouble for them simply to throw the waste products into the scrap metal."

We might add our own comment: the exhibition that reflects the basic trends in resource-saving was opened at the oblast House of Technology. Simply the reserves allocated here made it possible during the past year to involve in production 2000 tons of waste products. In addition, approximately 10,000 tons of waste ferrous metals that are completely useable are annually turned over as scrap metal.

Obviously, this is an important question. If we resolve it, that means that we will substantially increase in the local market the share of articles made from local resources. This will help to eliminate theshortcoming that was mentioned at the Plenum of the Central Committee -- the gap that has been formed between the monetary income and the effective demand of the population.

At the June Plenum, sharp criticism was directed at the administrators of republics and oblasts where people prefer to import commodities from other regions, rather than producing them locally. Take Kharkov, for example. That major industrial center with a powerful potential imports electric hot plates which could easily be assimilated by the Plant imeni Malyshev. The city has a rather good printing base, and yet wallpaper is shipped in. The branch of Soyuzpromvnedreniye has repeatedly offered samples of coffee grinders to the electrical-machinery plant and the electrical-apparatus plant for assimilation. No, the enterprises do everything to avoid this matter, and the people at the ministry do not particularly insist on anything.

If there were a self-interested attitude to the matter, the oblast could satisfy its own needs for such complicated appliances as small-sized color television sets or even video tape recorders. No single enterprise is capable of producing every new item. In these instances it makes sense to arrange cooperative action within the oblast. And this kind of experience exists in many regions. In this respect the Kharkovites have been obviously lagging behind. And yet the organizing of the production of consumer goods is precisely that sphere in which one can obtain results in the shortest period of time. It is important for people to realize that the restructuring is broadening and deepening, is beginning to yield real fruit, primarily in those areas that pertain to satisfying the vital everyday needs of the workers.

5075
CSO: 1827/112

CONCERN VOICED OVER WORSENING CAR SHORTAGE

PM061055 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Aug 87 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by V. Tolstov under the rubric "Commercial Review": "A Car Is Not a Luxury"]

[Text] If the shortage of cars as the most desirable consumer durable were suddenly to be eliminated, do you know how many buyers would immediately present themselves at sales outlets willing to pay cash? In the RSFSR alone it would be around 1 million people. Specialists who study how family budgets are made up claim that the purchase of a car also features high on the list of long-term projects for which families save up. These represent additional millions of potential buyers. What is in store for would-be car owners, will they be able to realize their plans in the next few years?

To begin with, let us take a look at the Comprehensive Program for the Development of Consumer Goods Production and the Service Sphere in 1986-2000. The program contains many figures when it comes to fabrics and footwear, for instance, and states how many vacuum cleaners and quartz watches are to be produced. However, it contains nothing specific about the most expensive and sought-after article. It merely states that it is envisaged "in the 12th 5-Year Plan to switch to the production of new models of cars with improved technical parameters." This scant information is hardly likely to satisfy would-be buyers. In any case, it does not make it clear whether the supply of cars to the population will increase.

It is well known that at present this indicator of living standards is low. In 1985 there were 45 cars per 1,000 inhabitants in our country compared with 115 in Bulgaria, 132 in Hungary, 169 in Czechoslovakia, and 188 in the GDR. The provision of the population with cars is even better in developed capitalist countries, where it exceeds the level achieved in our country several-fold. What about the future?

According to the All-Union Research Institute for the Study of the Population's Demand for Consumer Goods and the Market Situation, which has carried out special surveys on this problem, the situation on the country's car market is marked by stagnation. And so far there is no sign of improvement. After the rapid growth of car production in the

late sixties and early seventies, when car production in our country increased sixfold and when we outstripped many major producers as regards the dynamics of development, we have come to a halt. For more than 10 years now, car sales to the population have remained at roughly the same level.

This cannot be regarded as satisfactory because sales have never matched the growing demand from the population, and the gulf between supply and demand is threatening to widen in the future. The program for the development of car production makes no provision for a substantial increase in the supply of cars to the domestic market before the year 2000 despite the fact that the population's growing income is bound to further increase demand.

The development of car ownership among the population is also threatened by another danger. Whereas at first the pool of private cars simply grows continually, as time goes by, the gradual but ever-increasing process of aging sets in and cars drop out of use. Right now, selling a heavily used secondhand car is almost as difficult for the owner as acquiring a new car. The used car market is almost saturated. Furthermore the life of cars is not indefinite. Specialists regard 15 years as the maximum for Zhiguli, Moskvich, Zaporozhets, and other small cars.

More and more of the cars produced in the sixties and seventies will have to be scrapped. According to State Automobile Inspectorate information, the number of cars that have been irrevocably written off is still small. However, among the cars which failed the technical inspection in 1985 there were 885,000 old cars. Their owners are reluctant to reconcile themselves to their loss and are hoping for capital repairs. However, the shortage of spare parts, especially car bodies, offers them little chance. After all by 1990, 2,541,000 private cars will have reached the 15-year mark. And a further 3,733,000 between 1991 and 1995. This will be 83.6 percent of the number of new cars rolling off the production line during these years. In other words, as time goes on, car manufacturers will be working more and more to replace old and obsolete cars. The provision of a growing number of cars to new owners will slow down at first and then it will stop altogether. This means that the shortage will intensify. The aging process affecting the pool of private cars is outstripping the increase in the production of spare parts and services provided by car servicing facilities. This means that in this area too shortages persist, together with the negative phenomena to which they give rise, namely theft, speculation, extortion at service stations, and so forth.

Average retail prices for cars and associated goods and services are rising considerably faster than the population's monetary incomes. Between 1970 and 1985 the average car price doubled and car service costs increased by 60 percent; the retail price of gasoline has quadrupled since 1979. Running and maintaining a car costs a family on average R875 annually and frequently strains families' financial resources to the limit.

The introduction on the market of the relatively cheap new "Oka" car does not solve the problem since the production volume of this car is quite insignificant for our country--a mere 50,000 cars per year.

In short, an alarming situation is developing in the car market. Unless changes are introduced in the near future in the plans for the development of car production, the provision of the population with cars will remain at one of the lowest levels among developed countries and it will become even more difficult to acquire a car.

/9604
CSO: 1827/117

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SITUATION REVIEWED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jun 87 p 2

[Article by M. Krushinskiy: "Housing in the Year 2000; Some Thoughts Evoked by the 'Stroyindustriya-87' Exhibition"; first paragraph is source introduction]

[Text] We are building only a little faster than our forefathers. Up until now progress in this sphere has been rolling along on the rails of scientific and technical evolution. And the international exhibition "Stroyindustriya-87" ["Construction Industry-87"], which was held recently in Moscow, gives no reason to expect that there will be any fundamental change in speed in the near future. With all of the achievements (right down to the introduction of the newest computer equipment), design thinking continues to work on improving traditional technologies.

And how useful a revolutionary leap would be! Not everyone appreciates the scale of the task proposed by the 27th Party Congress--a separate apartment or individual house for each family by the year 2000. In practice (according to estimates of specialists), this means erecting 2.2 billion square meters of dwelling space: in the next 12.5 years the available housing space in the country must increase by one and a half times. At the same time, up until now we have not even begun to come close to the desired goal. Meanwhile, the number of new families is growing faster than the number of apartments: 2.75 against 2.1 million, according to data for the past year. And the year was a record-breaking year in our history in volume of housing produced.

The housing construction administration of the USSR Gosgrazhdanstroy [State Committee for Civil Construction and Architecture] acquainted me with a "schedule" for fulfilling the housing program: growth figures by year and 5-year plans, by regions and taking demographic forecasts into account. Incidentally, the all-union population census to be held in 2 years will also touch on problems of providing people with housing: the census forms will ask questions about the number and quality of square meters occupied by families and about children who will reach marriageable age by the end of the century. The effort is organized scientifically, and calculations tmemselves are being produced with the help of computers.

It is known: slogans for a radical resolution of the housing crisis were also put forth in previous times, but the situation did not improve. The shortage continued to grow. A dwelling--basic to human existence--in a significant measure determines the psychological and moral tone of a society. Therefore, the program, which is targetd on the year 2000, extends far beyond the parameters of a purely economic task. The reality of reforms conceived by us will be evaluated by how the program is fulfilled.

In the meantime, anxiety can be sensed in many of the letters from readers. The authors can be appreciated: they have been standing in line for years "for improvement," but no change for the better has been observed. Can it be, they complain, that the problem cannot be solved in our space age? Some also propose "prescriptions" for its resolution. For example, this is what P. Novikov from the city of Gorky wrote: ". . . Take a housing block and divide it into apartments among those who are on the waiting list. Assign the labor intensive work to those people to be done by them in their free time. . . Then the housing crisis will be eliminated in 2 or 3 years. Naive? At first, it seemed that way to me. Among other things, I answered the reader: "Will the output of a million people at building sites doing their own work be great? In addition, the problem is not only and so much a problem of a shortage of working hands: there is a shortage of productive capacity, building materials, designs. . ."

But, nonetheless, the letter left a certain impression. Say what you like, in previous epochs, when "productive capacities" were not even thought about, people somehow provided themselves with housing. Consequently, it is not only industrial power that determines our everyday comforts? These doubts were unexpectedly corroborated by facts derived from the international construction exhibition.

The pavilion of the People's Republic of China was the most modest in "Sokolniki." Kitchen utensils, hardware, ceramics. . . People came here to admire the clever painting on the tile stove, but specialists and respresentatives of the press did not indulge the novice very much (this was the first time that China took part in this kind of public showing). Naturally, it was much more interesting at the American stands, with their electronic marvels, or at the Finnish, French and West German stands. . . And the managers of the display behaved modestly, almost shyly, as if to say: "We came more to learn than to advertise ourselves." But from a conversation with Chzhan Tsinchzhen, pavilion deputy director, I found out figures which I will now share with you.

But first, about our own indices, in order to be able to make comparisons. Last year (which has already been called a record year), in accordance with a statistical summary published in January, 118.2 million square meters of housing space were put into operation (actually, somewhat less, inasmuch as later many houses were removed from the statistical report because of defects and imperfections). In the entire last 5-year plan--552 million square meters were put into operation, in the current year--630 million (according to the plan), and in the year 2000--180 million. And now let us consider: last year, 800 million square meters of housing were built in the PRC [People's Republic of China]. Of course, they also have more people: 1 billion 200

million. So, let us perform a simple operation: we will divide the number of "squares" into the number of inhabitants. And it becomes clear: in a per capita calculation, China is surpassing us in the rate of housing construction by more than one and a half times. They are already today building (per capita) more than we are planning (taking demographic growth into account) for the turn of the century.

Is it not true--"there is a pile of questions?" What kinds of homes are these, who is building them and where and at the expenditure of what sources and resources? In search of answers, I spent quite a few hours at the exhibition, and I also made inquiries at the Moscow reporter's center of the newspaper TSZINZI ZHIBAO (ECONOMIC NEWS): Its correspondent, Li Ley, reported quite a lot of interesting information. I will summarize it briefly.

The "construction boom" (their own expression) began in the PRC at the end of the 1970's, simultaneously with a radical reorganization in the economy. In the preceding period, there was practically no housing construction, so that the problem had reached an extreme degree of severity. Four-fifths of the Chinese live in village localities, and, therefore, the volume of new building construction (approximately in the same proportion) falls essentially in the villages. The main construction materials are bricks, which are produced in the hundreds of thousands(!) of very small plants that are part of a cooperative private sector. (I do not think it is necessary to mention in this regard the cottage industry in metallurgy at the time of the "great leap": brick production in contrast to blast-furnace production can be employed under "home" conditions. The predominant method of construction is "family-related," i.e., approximately what we call "house-building by people with their own resources" ["narodnaya stroyka"].

Quality, services and utilities? Below are standards we have adopted: hot water, sewer systems--by no means everwhere, and the interior finishing has fallen behind--for example, a cement floor is the custom. But on the other hand, the "shells" themselves, according to eye witnesses, are "up to standard": the diligence of the Chinese and their thoroughness are widely known. True, the general statistics also include adobe fanzas with roofs made of reeds.

City construction is also developing rapidly (last year--150 million square meters). The main source here, besides state capital investment, are the means of enterprises that have completely gone over to self-supporting production [samookupayemost]. Housing construction , they told me, is walking on "three legs": individual, the forces of enterprise and the state.

Other measures are also being employed to eliminate the housing crisis: control over the size of the population and the prevention (by economic means) of excessive migration from village localities to the city. Steps are also being planned to change the principles of payment for a city apartment. The current low level (3.8 percent of the income of the average statistical city resident), as they explained to me, contributes to the extreme growth in demand for housing, and the state is not able to satisfy the demand, inasmuch

as the apartment rent far from covers the expenditures on construction and contents of homes. It is proposed that rents be increased and that city residents be induced to acquire housing at their own expense.

Technical progress and the growth in industrial power has been remarkable. It would be stupid to deny that this is the main road to development in any productive sphere, including construction as well. But is it proper to travel only on the main road, overloading it and neglecting numerous village roads and pathways? China's experience (with all of its demographic, climatic and various other features) shows that in other cases these pathways, which straighten out the road, lead to an objective ratner well. Of course, we are not talking about blind copying of Chinese methods, but they deserve to be studied carefully.

For our own housing construction, applying the Chinese terminology, is "one-legged" to a significant extent. It cannot be said that our "national pathways" are already completely overgrown, but the level of their utilization is extremely low. The share of housing construction cooperatives, for example, does not exceed 6-8 percent of the total volume, and the state as usual bears the main burden of expenditures on its shoulders. It is slightly better in the villages: Belorussia can be cited as an example where more and more homes are being erected at the expense of citizens' means, by economic methods and by the method of "house-building by people with their own resources" (G. Tarazevich, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic, spoke about this on the pages of IZVESTIYA, No 83, published in 1987). Still, it is not much. Our propensity for centralizing everything that it is possible to centralize actually also shackles us.

Of all of the construction technologies, we in our time placed decisive emphasis on KPD [Large-panel home-building]. It gradually took a turn: in the last 5-year plan, more than 40 percent of homes were assembled from panels manufactured in plants. However, while this method is convenient in major industrial centers, it "slips" in construction at remote areas. You cannot build a ZhBI (reinforced concrete products) plant or a home-building combine in every "out-of-the-way" place. Remoteness from raw materials bases, strict "commitment" to series production, and the intricacy of supply and transport schedules render construction more expensive and slow it down. Raw materials and manufactured articles sometimes have to be transported thousands of versts, and they just wait at the construction sites: the state pays. The miserable pace of the individual construction sites is explained by the absence of an industrial base, which some day will be moved closer! They stand with outstretched hands ("Give us funds and capital investments!"), and under their feet there is an excellent raw material, at least for the production of brick itself. . .

We have lost the habit of initiative, and the roots of dependency have set in deeply. Meanwhile, we know very well what can be achieved--with minimal capital expenditures--when people's initiative is given wide scope.

"House-building by people with their own resources" and cooperative principles could and should be employed more widely both in the city and in the village. At least take those young housing complexes that "are developing in our

country by a centimeter a year." Or the method of the so-called "unfinished building" ["grubaya stroyka"], which is widely employed in Bulgaria, and which is practically unknown in this country: the interior trimming work in an already erected shell of the building is carried out by the future residents. Not enough interested persons will be found? Just give a call!

Of course, this also requires material conditions; for example, the availability of appropriate products that can be sold without restrictions. Why, at one of the press conferences in Sokolniki the journalists were assured that in the next 2 or 3 years building material will appear on counters in abundance. Although, I think, this is not the main difficulty. The main thing is to cast off organizational shackles and set a course for firm democratization of housing construction. In such a serious affair, it is risky to rely only on an increase in industrial power. We must in every way possible promote the creation of local small plants, including those on cooperative principles as well, and also project design estimates and proper construction crews and organizations. Tens of millions of "people on waiting lists" should receive a real opportunity to draw nearer to a house warming, and not to pine in expectation of the day that it will come to them like manna from heaven.

And in addition, openness and frankness are necessary. At a minimum, quarterly summaries by region (right down to rayons) and for the whole country are needed on the progress of fulfillment of the housing program. Moreover, not only about the construction itself and the delivery of homes and square meters, but also about the size of the lists and about the prospects of reducing and eliminating them. So that everyone would know where the bottlenecks are, what has to be done and whom to make responsible.

13052
CSO: 1827/106

EQUITABLE SYSTEM FOR WAGES, LABOR SOUGHT

Moscow FINANSY SSSR in Russian No 2, Feb 87 pp 37-41

[Article by K.A. Strelkova, chief expert, USSR Ministry of Finance Credit and Monetary Circulation Main Administration: under the rubric "Improving the Financial-Credit Mechanism": "Equal Pay for Equal Work"]

[Text] The great plans outlined for the 12th Five-Year Plan regarding growth in production and the people's prosperity will become a reality only if each Soviet person works intensively and effectively. The magnitude of wages as the principal component of income must be brought into line with the results of labor.

The foundations of the present wage system in the national economy were formulated in the mid-1950's, during the period when wages were being regularized, but nowadays they no longer meet the contemporary requirements which have evolved. Those years witnessed the solution of the problem of narrowing the gaps in the wages of low-, medium-, and high-paid categories of employees. As a result, in the basic sectors of industry, the gap between the wage rates of workers in the highest and lowest grades was reduced from a factor of 2.5-3.5 to a factor of 1.8-2. The ratio between the wages of workers and those of ITR's [engineers and technicians] amounted to 1:1.5.

Since that time the minimum wage has increased several times, while new wage rates and position salaries have been introduced twice in the sectors of the national economy. Thus, during the years 1973-1975 new wage conditions, along with an increase in the minimum wage (to 70 rubles a month) were introduced at the same time for 55 million workers and office employees in the national economy's production sectors. The Ninth Five-Year Plan saw an increase in the rates and salaries of 7 million physicians, schoolteachers, instructors, and certain other employee categories. During 1976-1979 the wage rates and salaries of 31 million persons employed in the non-producion sphere were raised. The 10th Five-Year Plan witnessed a centralized type of increase in the wages of certain categories of employees in such important sectors of the national economy as ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, the coal and textile industries, construction, agriculture, and railroad transport. Increases in the minimum wage (to 80 rubles a month), wage rates, and salaries of workers and office employees, primarily in the production sectors of the national economy, were continued during the 11th Five-Year Plan. As a result of the

centralized measures taken during the period 1981-1985, the wages of more than 20 million persons were increased, including those of many agricultural workers. Payment of awards for lengthy, meritorious service was introduced in railroad transport, contract construction organizations, and in certain other sectors. There was an increase in the wages of workers and office employees in the coal industry.

Measures to increase minimum wages and to introduce new, higher wage rates and salaries were carried out almost entirely by means of the state budget. The level and dynamics of the average monthly wages of workers and office employees are characterized by the following data:

Indicator	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985
Average monthly wage of workers and office employees (including one-time bonuses), in rubles	96.5	122	145.8	168.9	190.1
Increase in the five-year period:					
in rubles	8.8	25.5	23.8	23.1	21.2
in percent		26.4	19.5	15.8	12.5

Consequently, ing the period 1965-1985 the average monthly wages of workers and office employees increased by a factor of 1.7 on the whole. Higher growth rates and absolute increases are characteristic of wages when payments and privileges from the public consumption funds are added as follows:

Indicator	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985(est.)
Average monthly wage of workers and office employees, including public consumption funds, rubles	129.2	164.5	198.9	232.8	272.4
Increase in the five-year period:					
in rubles		35.3	34.4	33.9	39.6
in percent		27.3	20.9	17.0	17.0

Thus, over the 20-year period the average monthly wage of workers and office employees, when the public consumption funds are included, more than doubled, whereas its absolute increase exceeded the growth of the average monthly wage, without including the public consumption funds, by almost threefold. Measures for increasing the minimum wage during the 1970's were combined with a certain differential increase in the wage level of low- and medium-paid employees. This is explained by the fact that in 1970 the average wage of workers and office employees exceeded its minimum level by a factor of 2, and the further reduction of the difference between them could have led to a diminution of the incentives to work on the part of the medium-paid employees. In this connection, during the increase of wages paid to workers and office employees over the years 1971-1980 by 38 percent, its minimum was increased by 17 percent. As a result, in 1975 the average wage of workers and office employees exceeded its minimum level by a factor of 2.1, whereas in 1980 this figure had reached 2.4.

However, the increase in the wages of workers and office employees was not always provided by the same increase in labor productivity. Wages rose more rapidly than labor productivity in construction and agriculture, at enterprises under the administration of the following USSR ministries: the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, Ministry of the Chemical Industry, Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, and especially at enterprises under the administration of the USSR Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry and Ministry of Light Industry. In the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, Ministry of Nonferrous Industry, Ministry of the Coal Industry, and in railroad transport wages increased despite a decrease in labor productivity. Naturally, this affected the economy's over-all balance, monetary circulation, the purchasing power of the ruble, and the employees' material motivation.

Not everything in industry has yet been done to reduce labor which has a low productivity factor. Over the last nine years the proportion of workers employed in manual labor has gone down annually only by 0.7-0.8 points. In order to retain people in low-skill and manual jobs, enterprises sometimes inflate wages, apply outmoded norms and normatives, increase the rates and amounts of bonuses. There has been a worsening of the ratio between the wage levels of ITR's and those of workers in industry and construction (Table 1).

Table 1

RATIO OF WAGES OF ITR's AND OFFICE EMPLOYEES TO WAGES OF WORKERS (by year), %

Year	Industry		Construction	
	ITR's	off.emp.	ITR's	off.emp.
1940	215	111	242	147
1960	151	82	157	101
1965	146	84	148	94
1970	136	85	135	92
1975	124	82	115	81
1980	115	79	102	71
1981	113	78	100	70
1982	112	77	99	69
1983	110	76	98	68
1984	111	77	98	69
1985	110	78	99	68

In machine-tool building, chemical and petroleum machine building, construction and highway machine building, in machine building for the light and food industries, fodder production and livestock production the average wages of ITR's and office employees, as a rule, are lower than workers' wages (Table 2).

Table 2

RATIO OF WAGES OF ITR's AND OFFICE EMPLOYEES TO WAGES OF WORKERS (by ministries), %

All-Union Ministry of:	1975		1985	
	ITR's	off.emp.	ITR's	off.emp.
Heavy and Transport Machine Building	102	68	95	67
Power Machine Building	97	66	97	71
Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building	102	72	98	76
Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry	99	72	96	75
Animal Husbandry & Fodder Prod. Machine Building	105	76	89	69
Construction, Road, & Municipal Machine Building	103	75	93	73
Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances	98	74	90	74

At present the wage level hardly depends at all on production efficiency (i.e., whether good or bad products are being turned out) because both the wage system and the practice of applying it are in need of improvement. We must put in order the utilization of funds for awarding bonuses to labor collectives and employees for their successes in accelerating scientific and technical progress and introducing the latest achievements more rapidly. The system of providing material incentives is extremely cumbersome and ineffective: there are dozens of different forms of providing such incentives. Often bonuses are paid out to everybody regardless of the end results achieved and the personal contribution of the individual employee.

As noted at the 27th CPSU Congress, increasing the wage rates and salaries of workers and office employees in production sectors for the 12th Five-Year Plan will proceed primarily by means and within the limits of the funds being earned by the enterprises themselves. This will allow a more active influence to be exerted on accelerating technical progress and increasing production efficiency. A new approach to solving the problem of increasing wages has been experimentally verified on the Belorussian Railroad, where all the necessary funds were discovered by means of internal sources as a result of much preparatory economic and organizational work and by better use of equipment.

The system of measures to instill order into the organization of wages approved in September 1986 is closely linked with measures to improve the economic mechanism. First of all, provisions have been made to increase the proportion of the wage rate to 70-75 percent (as compared to 50-65 percent at the present time) by means of raising the wage rates of workers by an average of 20-25 percent for the sectors on an average and the salaries of managers, specialists, and office employees by 30-35 percent on an average.

Raises in the level of wage rates and position salaries also require a growth in labor productivity and an increase in the wage amounts. They cannot remain unchanged for a lengthy period of time while wages grow, inasmuch as no

provision has been made for the necessary correlation of wages among various categories of employees. Increasing wages based on an increased over-fulfilling of norms is possible solely for piece-rate workers, which, to a certain extent is to be explained by a lack of improvement in setting labor norms. At present the average percentage of carrying out production norms in industry amounts to 125.3 percent, while in industry this figure is 137.2 percent. Therefore, the growth rate of wages among piece-rate workers has outstripped by far the growth of wages among time-rate workers, as well as that of ITR's and office employees. Such a situation can be eliminated only by means of improving the wage rate conditions and by radically improving the methods of setting norms for them. Associations and enterprises have been granted the right to revise the existing norms and normatives for labor expenditures in any amount, but this should be for the purpose of having the increase in the labor productivity rate outstrip the increase in wages.

It is planned to provide a higher growth rate for wages and salaries in those sectors of the national economy which ensure technical progress--nuclear-power engineering, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, as well as machine building. For example, taking into account the key role played by machine building in retooling production, the wage rates in machine building are being increased up to 45 percent for workers engaged in fine-tuning, repairing, and servicing particularly complex equipment; the ratio between the wage rates of the lowest and highest grades is changing. At the same time, in order to strengthen the incentives for increasing skills and vocational mastery for this category of employees an eight-grade wage-rate system is being introduced in place of the existing six-grade system.

The wage rates of highly skilled workers in the light and food industries have been significantly increased. They have been brought closer to the rates in the processing sectors of heavy industry. For workers engaged in construction wage rates have been greatly increased. The wage rates of skilled workers have been raised. There has been a change in the ratio between the wage rates of the lowest and highest grades; this is facilitating the upgrading of skills and the execution of more complex projects.

In almost all sectors being paid on a piece-rate basis wage rates are being established which are higher than those on a time-rate basis.

Such a situation is explained by the fact that piece-rate workers strive to fulfill and over-fulfill their production norms; they eliminate losses of working time and labor basically with greater intensity than do time-rate workers. In establishing higher wage rates for piece-rate workers, the state compensates the increased labor of the workers.

Great changes are being introduced in the wage rates of ITR's and office employees. Above all, an improvement is being made in the ratio between the wage-rate level of workers and the salaries of ITR's. On the whole, their salaries are being raised by more than 10-15 percent more than the wage rates of workers. The link between these categories of employees may be traced very clearly in the establishment of a foreman's salary in a definite ratio to the workers' wage rates. Based on a foreman's salary, a scheme of position salaries has been formulated for all the remaining ITR's. In turn, a

foreman's salary is established depending on the wage level of the workers under his supervision. The correlations between the salaries of the foremen and the wage rates of the workers are determined by taking into account the particular characteristics of the production sectors involved. In the salary schemes the position salary of a foreman is set either at the level of the most skilled worker or (in most sectors) higher.

An increased (up to 40-45 percent) wage, as compared to that of other specialists, has been established for those who are employed in developing new equipment and technology. The salaries of chief designers, chief technologists, chief mechanics, and chiefs of production-engineering divisions exceed the salaries of labor-division managers and the wages of those in charge of economic planning, etc. In order to strengthen the motivation of ITR's in upgrading their skills and work quality, the following four skills categories are being introduced: engineer, engineer second-grade, engineer first-grade, and leading engineer in place of the presently existing positions of engineer and senior engineer; classifications are also being established for foremen.

The range between minimum and maximum position salaries is being increased significantly. The position salaries for the managers of subdivisions, specialists, and office employees are being established without heed to the average salaries on the staff schedule and without taking into account the number of specialists with various skills. Changes are also being introduced in the system of indicators used for relegating enterprises and groups by the salaries of the managers. The indicator of the number of personnel is being excluded from these indicators, and, at the same time, there is an intensification of the trend toward increasing the technical level of production along with that of product quality. A source of funds for introducing new wage rates and position salaries in mobilizing the internal reserves of associations and enterprises must be, first of all, economizing on the wage fund, obtained as a result of reducing the number of personnel, improving the wage structure, revising the production norms and other norms of labor expenditures, bonus systems, added payment amounts, and, in certain cases--with the consent of the labor collective--a portion of the money from the material-incentives fund.

The new wage rates and salaries can be introduced simultaneously for an association or an enterprise as a whole, or for its individual structural subdivisions, categories, and employee categories, as the necessary funds accumulate. But in all cases the salaries for the officials of the administrative apparatus will be increased last (after the wage rates and salaries of the other employees are raised). This affects the interests of the country's 75 million workers and office employees. During the period when the new wage rates and salaries are being introduced we must ensure outstripping growth rates of labor productivity in comparison with the growth of wages.

In order to strengthen the standards required of the quality of work performed by managers, specialists, and office employees and their responsibility for the task entrusted to them, provision has been made to conduct a certification of these categories of employees. Based upon its results, the manager of an

association or an enterprise makes a decision as to raising or lowering a position, the class title and skills category of employees, raising or lowering their position salaries and, if necessary--about dismissing them from the positions they hold. At the same time, there has been an increase in the responsibilities of the leading employees of associations, enterprises, and organizations. In case of a systematic failure to fulfill the annual plans and assignments, poor utilization of equipment, and a poor product quality, the ministers and department directors are accorded the right to lower the wages of the group in question, and thereby reduce by as much as 20 percent the salaries of enterprise managers and those of their production subdivisions.

In order to expand the independence of associations and enterprises with regard to appraising the working conditions, their managers are being accorded the right, upon reaching an agreement with the trade-union committees, to introduce added payments to workers up to 12 percent of the wage rate (or salary) on jobs which have difficult and harmful conditions and as much as 24 percent for those with especially difficult and harmful working conditions. In sections, shops, and on production lines where more than half of the workers receive added payments because of harmful working conditions analogous added payments are being established for foremen, section chiefs, and shop chiefs, as well as other specialists and office employees, if they are constantly employed (for at least 50 percent of the working time) in the given structural sub-divisions. Added payments for poor working conditions cost the state dearly, and, therefore, it is necessary to accelerate the reduction of the amount of such jobs.

Strengthening the link between wage rates and the intensification of labor norms is being achieved by establishing as much as 12 percent of added payments to the wage rates (salaries) for workers employed on conveyor, assembly, and production lines.

Moreover, the total sum of added payments for working conditions and intensity must not exceed 24 percent of the wage rate. Such added payments are included in the wage rates in all estimates connected with wages.

The procedure for stimulating the increase of occupational skill among workers is being extended to all production sectors (the establishment of added payments to Grade 3 workers--up to 12 percent, Grade 4 workers--up to 16 percent, Grade 5 workers—up to 20 percent, Grade 6 and higher—to 24 percent of the appropriate wage rate). However, the given incentive does not take place during a month in which a deficiency or lowering of product quality is discovered, while if there is a systematically regular output of poor-quality products, it is entirely done away with. In addition to this, provisions have been made for lowering the skills grades (classes and categories) of workers for committing a gross violation of technological discipline, as well as for other serious violations entailing a worsening of the quality of the products being made or jobs being performed by them.

The positive practice of using added payments for performing particularly important jobs within the period assigned for their completion, as set for scientific employees, designers, technologis, foremen, and first-line

supervisors, has allowed us to disseminate the procedure of their activity to all specialists, office employees, and managers (except for directors of production sectors in place of the former added payments for high skills. The amount of the added payments has been retained, and it amounts to as much as 50 percent of an employee's salary on account of and within the limits of economies with regard to the wage fund. In construction added payments for high labor achievements are provided for in an established procedure.

Great changes have been introduced in organizing the awarding of bonuses for the purpose of providing a direct link between the labor activity of each employee and its results. A transition has been provided from the individual awarding of bonuses to workers, specialists, and office employees to registering bonuses, as a rule, to the collective of a brigade, section, shop, division, or other structural sub-division.

Bonuses to individual employees within the limits of the total sum are determined directly by the collective, depending upon their personal contribution to the over-all work results, and are not limited by the maximum amounts.

The managers of associations, enterprises, and organizations, upon agreement with the trade-union committee, are granted the right to independently approve regulations concerning the awarding of bonuses to workers, specialists, and office employees of all structural sub-divisions for the basic and other extremely important results of economic activity, proceeding from the specific tasks confronting labor collectives; to combine all funds for special systems of awarding bonuses within the material-incentives fund (a unified material-incentives fund) and to independently determine the procedure for the payment and amounts of special bonuses; to reduce the bonuses or not present them at all to emplyees guilty of worsening the quality of the products being turned out (or the jobs being performed), violation of technical discipline, failure to observe standards and engineering specifications, of submitting reclaimed or returning poor-quality products.

There is a heightened motivation for managers and specialists to fulfill the basic indicators of economic activity. Their awarding of bonuses will occur primarily for the 100-percent fulfillment of product sales as per contract. Payment of bonuses to leading employees for all production sectors is provided for in amounts equal to 13 salaries. Moreover, most of them will be paid for fulfilling the basic plan indicators and for increasing production efficiency. The procedure for awarding bonuses in agriculture is being retained. Personal responsibility for restructuring the organization of wages and introducing the new wage conditions is borne by the leading officials of associations, enterprises, and organizations.

The task of monitoring the progress being made by measures to improve wages and to introduce new wage rates has been assigned to the ministries and departments. It is important in this connection to observe the following principle of social justice: equal pay for equal work. It is precisely this which constitutes the foundation of the radical restructuring of wages which is to be carried out during the 12th Five-Year Plan. The introduction of new wage rates and position salaries affects every labor collective in the

production sphere, and the task of the financial organs in auditing or topically checking up on the enterprises under the jurisdiction is to discover existing reserves, render practical aid, and to constantly monitor the correctness of using the funds for the new wage rates and salaries.

2384
CSO: 1828/150

GLADKIY RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS ON WAGE REORGANIZATION

Moscow TRUD in Russian 2C Jul 87 p 1-2

[Interview with I. I. Gladkiy, chairman, USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, by Yu. Krasnopolskiy: "The Restructuring of Wages"; date and place not specified; first three paragraphs are source introduction]

[Text] The restructuring of wages and bonuses is an integral part of economic reform. Its purpose is to put an end to wage-leveling and assure the full realization of the principle of social justice "to each according to his labor." The introduction of new conditions for labor payment on a new economic basis--that is, on the basis of what has been earned by the collectives themselves--opens up prospects for the initiative and the creativity of those who perform the labor.

At a recent meeting arranged by USSR Goskomtrud [State Committee for Labor and Social Problems] and the AUCCTU, in which representatives of the ministries and departments, the central committees of industry unions and other labor organizations participated, the subject of discussion was how to carry out the reorganization provided for in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU entitled "On Improving the Organization of Wages and Establishing New Wage Rates and Salaries for Workers in Industrial Sectors of the National Economy."

The editors have received many letters regarding the introduction of the new wage rates and salaries. The most typical questions that have arisen are today responded to by I. I. Gladkiy, chairman of USSR Goskomtrud.

[Question] Nine months have passed since the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the AUCCTU was enacted. What has been done during this period? What is the extent of the transition of the labor collectives to the new conditions of labor pay?

[Answer] The ministries and departments, together with the labor unions and organizations, have been conducting a major campaign to explain the situation in the industry and labor collectives. USSR Goskomtrud and the AUCCTU have approved all the necessary normative documentation; the experience of the leading enterprises and organizations is being summarized and disseminated.

Already the collectives of more than 1,700 associations, enterprises, and organizations, totalling about two million people--workers in industry, transport, construction and communications--are working under the new conditions. Specifically, the AvtoVAZ Association, the Nizhnevolzhneft Production Association, and the Elektronmash imeni V. I. Lenin in Kiev, as well as a number of other major associations. More than a hundred building trusts now operate under the new conditions, as well as 11 railways and a couple of metro railways, and a couple of hundred enterprises of the BSSR Ministry of Communications, among others. According to preliminary figures, the collectives of 14,700 associations, enterprises, and organizations will convert to the new conditions of labor pay before the end of the year.

Is this many or is it too few? It is difficult to give a simple unambiguous answer. Naturally, the reorganization requires vigorous and decisive steps, and the transition to the new conditions of labor pay should be a stimulus to qualitative improvement in social production--the basis of the country's economic power. So that no slowing down at this point can be tolerated. The raising of wage scales and salaries should be put into effect promptly, as specified by the labor collectives, and in line with the necessary economic and social conditions. That means, it is in their interest to speed things up.

But we are against hasty, premature decisions, which, experience proves, not only are ineffective but serve to publicly discredit wage restructuring and the entire economic process, giving rise to false rumors and various kinds of unjustified speculation. In the final analysis hasty decisions only slow things up. The principal task therefore of both the labor collectives and industrial leaders--and responsibility for the effective and correct introduction of the new conditions of labor pay falls squarely on their shoulders--is without hurry and without wasted effort, but without delay and without procrastination, to implement the measures outlined by the party.

Practical experience attests to the difference in approach. In the USSR ministeries of the petroleum industry, the chemical industry, and the electrical equipment industry, it may be said, this effort is being carried out most expeditiously. But in the USSR State Agricultural Committee there has not been up until now even a schedule for the conversion of agricultural enterprises to the new conditions of labor pay. The normative documents have filtered down to the oblast and rayon agricultural associations, but they have not as yet reached the farms, where basically the work must be done. What kind of restructuring can this be called?

[Question] An analysis of letters to the editors indicates that many workers, specialists, and even industrial leaders lack a sufficiently clear understanding of the purpose and process of wage-rate reform.

[Answer] Actually, we have encountered this repeatedly in the various enterprises, particularly where the substance of the new approach to organizing the wage scale has not reached each collective and each worker. And without this awareness it is impossible to assure a broad-based search for reserves. It must be understood that this reform is taking place primarily within the labor collectives and in each work position.

The most widespread misconception is that the switch to the new conditions of labor pay is identified with an ordinary raise in wages and salaries. This is by no means true. They do indeed tend to go up, but not of their own accord. No government, no matter how developed it may be, can afford to pay for labor at a higher rate if the productivity and quality of labor remains at its former level; there is simply no source from which to take the additional assets. The assets must first be earned, and this is the main feature of wage reorganization as it is logically derived from the principles of restructuring our entire industrial mechanism.

Well, who must earn these assets, and how? The labor collectives, of course, by raising the efficiency of production and thereby increasing the amounts that go into enterprise funds; by reorganization, planning, and management; by strengthening the standards of work; and, most of all, by the use of cost accountability and contracts.

Meanwhile, there are a number of enterprises--for example, in the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry--that are devoting themselves not to the search for reserves but to making calculations: how much to ask the government for in making the transition to the new conditions of labor pay. And this in an industry possessing the demonstrated experience of the Volga Motor Vehicle Plant with respect to switching to cost accounting and self-financing. At this plant, I might point out, they are making up the wage rate on the basis of internal reserves and potential, and in doing so they are achieving remarkable results.

[Question] A lot of questions and complaints have come to the editors concerned with review and certification of job qualifications. This is what a group of drivers from motor vehicle column 2559 from Petropavlovsk had to say: "We went through the certification process, and they reduced the qualifications of everybody, one after another, by one or two job categories, explaining that this was necessary in the interests of the reorganization." Similar instances are reported by a crew of plasterers at the Novomoskovsk-promstroy Trust, Administration No. 8; by V. Kopeykin, a lathe operator of NIItransmash in Leningrad; and by others. Your comment?

[Answer] The question is a critical one. Such extreme situations, such reactionary formalism and demagoguery in referring to restructuring, have nothing whatsoever in common with genuine restructuring. Of course, it is necessary to deal with each such case independently. But if we are to speak of the problem as a whole, we must acknowledge that the existing system of setting wage rates for work and for workers is in need of renovation and, most of all, being made more precise. There have been cases in the past when high job categories have been handed out indiscriminately without care in checking levels of knowledge and skill, haven't there? And we have quite a number of bogus specialists with high job classifications, and drawing high wages, doing low-level work, don't we? Of course, at some enterprises there is not even any high-category work available. In this respect we must look the situation squarely in the eye and impose the strictest standards.

But in each case the question must be decided individually. We are dealing with the fate of people and with their professional pride. To offend anyone needlessly is in no way to be tolerated.

Let me cite an example. In the Grodno motor vehicle transport association as a result of certification, job categories of almost a thousand were reduced and the classifications of 300 workers were reduced. Yet there was not a single complaint. This means that the job certification was performed with objectivity under circumstances given widespread publicity, and that the people understood and agreed with the conclusions of the certification commission. By the way, the majority of them suffered no loss of wages, but by shifting to the higher wage rates even came out ahead. Moreover, they acquired an additonal incentive--once again, to reach a high job category and in this way get higher pay for their work.

But here is an example diametrically opposed to it. The managers of Tallinn Building Administration No. 7 sent their highly qualified workers a notice, saying, in effect, their positions were being eliminated, and that in the order of preference they could be accepted for another position, but in a lower job category. One can understand the bewilderment of people, all the more so for the fact that they had been told by the managers and administration specialists that through this means they wanted to raise their salaries.

[Question] Here, for instance, is what L. Kireyeva writes from Pavlodar: "I am a young specialist discharged because of a reduction in force. I was told that my position was being eliminated in connection with the introduction of the new conditions of labor pay. Is this true?"

[Answer] The fact that a position may be eliminated is possible and may be correct. Streamlining the industrial structure, so that work is done with the fewest number, is one of the ways of finding reserves so that wages and salaries can be raised. Nevertheless enterprise managers and trade union committees are under an obligation to be concerned with job placement--primarily, for organizing work in the second and third shifts and for reconstructing and extending production.

Another alternative is possible. Workers relieved of their jobs may be sent to other enterprises, including those in non-productive fields of activity. In this case they may receive the average wage paid at their previous position while engaged in study to raise their qualifications, and workers undergoing retraining without time off may receive supplemental pay equal to their average wage throughout the period of training.

Now with respect to workers enjoying concessions--young specialists and wives with infant children, and the like. Upon cancellation of their job positions they are to be transferred to other employment at the same enterprise or with their consent and as an intra-industry redistribution to another enterprise newly placed in operation.

[Question] One more question. It's about working with the fewest number. A group doing finishing operations at the Leninabad Silk Combine is

interested in how savings from the wage fund can be used.

[Answer] Here, there is a radical innovation. In collectives that have come under the new conditions any form of moonlighting is allowed, combining more than one position or profession, without getting the concurrence of the ministry or department. The matter is decided locally by the enterprise manager and the trade union committee. Moreover, the entire amount of the wage stays with the collective; there is no deduction from it or withdrawal authorized. The collective is therefore the sole custodian of these assets and distributes them according to the labor of the worker. All limits to the amount of supplemental pay for occupying more than one profession or position are removed, and the "ceiling" set only by the assets left at the disposal of the collective. We consider this a substantial stimulus to the reduction of labor intensiveness and to increasing the production level.

[Question] A group of specialists at the Serp i molot plant in Kiev have written a letter to the editors saying that they simply got a salary "hike" of 15 or 20 rubles. No concern for the quality of their work or particular contributions. The entire restructuring consisted of a raise in salary, and that was it.

[Answer] A familiar story, I'm sorry to say. That, of course, is the simplest way out of them all, like a prize in every box of crackerjacks. That is wage-leveling, and erosion of responsibility, in its purest form. And it is proper not to condone it. If someone does poor work, let him lose pay--it serves him right. But a person whose contribution is significant and substantial should get a raise that is commensurate with his contribution. We will get nowhere if we're afraid of offending a loafer and acknowledging excellence in a valuable worker. Previously, the collectives have been tied down by a variety of instructions and position papers, but now they have extensive rights. They need only to learn to use them. It's a lesson that we must all learn--from worker to minister.

Take, for instance, the matter of bonuses. As you know, a new system has been in effect since January of this year, and it applies not only to enterprises that adopt the new wages and salaries but to all of them without exception. The collectives can now pass their own regulations regarding bonuses and create separate incentive funds. The functions of the ministries are, in fact, limited to awarding bonuses only to leading enterprise workers. That is the system, and it is also right. But a number of ministries up to now have been arbitrarily practicing special forms of qualification for officially awarding bonuses with more than twenty criteria. In order to award a wage bonus nowadays there are still so many authorizations and official signatures to obtain. These are real bureaucratic monkey wrenches--they do no good and they only hold up things.

Special mention should also be made of designers, engineers, art designers, and all who are directly engaged in developing and introducing new technology. For such criteria as introducing and accelerating new elements, achieving world standards, or a substantial increase in the qualitative parameters of production, there should be up to 11 merit increases per year. At many of the

ministries, however, the old ways of doing things persist, and bonuses are still awarded only for fulfilling indicators of volume. Here, a thorough overhaul is necessary.

[Question] These principles of payment for labor are new, and the approach, as we can see, is in many instances still antiquated. Do you feel, Ivan Ivanovich, that passing a law--even the very best--and the working out of methods and recommendations is enough?

[Answer] You have touched upon the most difficult of questions perhaps. Of course, it is not enough. We must strive to reach a turning-point in the psychology of people. But nothing is to be achieved by mere good wishes and appeals. The best propaganda is effectiveness--getting results from incentives to work. The reorganization of wages must be synchronized with restructuring the entire managerial system of planning, of administration, of technical policy and technology. In this way the reorganization of wages may be recognized as a part of the process as a whole. But it becomes more visible, and more efficacious, say: If the collectives do their work well, this is the result--an increase in labor pay.

12889
18280157

END

END OF FICHE

DATE FILMED

17 Nov, 1987